

# Public Libraries

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## Advertising the Public Library\*

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(Concluded.)

Finally, there is the big advertising medium, the newspaper. The kind of material to furnish a newspaper may be of two classes, viz.: first, news of happenings in the library, comings and goings, architectural changes, innovations, and so on; and second, straight appeals to the public to come for books or other library services. Some newspapers give a column or half a column at regular intervals to be filled by library news, book notes and lists. Good use of this space when so furnished, or even when it must be purchased at so much per inch, can be one of the main sources of increasing library efficiency.

What shall be put into newspaper space is a proper problem for our consideration. Library happenings and news have some value, as has the publication of book lists. But more than that is needed. What is needed is vivid, live, interesting sketches describing particular books rather than a string of more or less meaningless titles. What can be done in the way of describing books for advertising purposes may best be illustrated from the matter sent out by a house that has built up a tremendous business in medium priced fiction.

*The Shuttle.* With inlay cover in colors by Clarence F. Underwood. This great international romance relates the story of a remarkable American girl, who, in rescuing her sister from the ruins of her marriage to an Eng-

lishman of title, displays splendid qualities of courage, tact and restraint. As a study of American womanhood of modern times, the character of Bettina Vanderpoel stands alone in literature.

*The Climber.* The story of ambitious Lucia Grimstone, who gains the goal of her dreams—social leadership—at the expense of all that is best in life, to realize the futility of it all when the law of recompense demands a remorseless accounting. This is Mr. Benson's best novel; it reaches a splendid and enduring level in contemporary fiction. An unsparing analysis of an ambitious woman's soul—a masterly novel of modern society.

*War of the Classes.* In the author's judgment everything is moving in the Socialistic direction. His final chapter explains how he became a Socialist. Direct, trenchant essays that will help the reader in learning more about the greatest problem this country has to face.

Now what is being done for fiction by this concern is also being done for technical books by several other publishers. As fiction usually gets more than its share of attention it would seem that the emphasis of advertising should be laid on non-fiction. There need not be added further excerpts from private advertising material. You will be interested in the "copy" of an "ad" that was prepared in response to the writer's request by the manager of one of the largest retail stores in Wisconsin, James W. Fisk, of the S. Heymann Company of Oshkosh.

This man has on several occasions expressed regret that the public library of his own city contains a wealth of unused material that could be quickly put into action by proper advertising. Recently the writer asked him what kind of advertising he meant and he replied in characteristic fashion by sitting down and writing the following "copy":

\*Summary of paper read at the Wisconsin library association meeting, February 21, 1912.

## What Do You Find in the Library that You Can Use?

Entertainment is the least important mission of books and magazines.

In the rows and rows of books here are bound the experience of thousands of people who had the same problems to solve that you have now.

Why waste time and labor if you can save both through what others have done?

### *The Coming Merchant*

the retail clerk, will find here many books and periodicals telling how the goods he handles are made, where the raw materials are obtained, and other literature that will be helpful in his daily work.

### *The Electrician*

may further develop his knowledge of this potent force and learn principles and their application that will ease his daily tasks.

### *The Factory Worker*

will find books and articles covering his special line of work, no matter what they may be—can secure knowledge that is bound to result in future promotion.

### *The Agriculturist*

will find books devoted to soil and its tillage, and other practical solutions of every day problems on the farm, conditions that he meets with every day.

**The Public Library is a rich fund of knowledge that you can turn into dollars for yourself—into actual money—gained through doing your work better. But even the mint couldn't supply you with cash if you did not ask for it.**

**Tonight—or this afternoon—think of something you want to know, and the Librarian will gladly help you to find the right book.**

How shall a library begin to carry out such an educational propaganda as I have suggested? The first essential is that the movement shall begin only after the most complete preparations. To do otherwise would be to waste energy, time and money. Hence, one of the first steps should be to make an accurate survey of the community to determine how many people there are in the community who could under any circumstances use the library. Also who they are and where they live. The same survey should determine as fully as possible what needs they have which the library can supply.

In most cases the people themselves do not know what they need. They do not even know that they need. They may be blind to some of the most fundamental necessities of their lives in these times; for, to be able to express definitely what a lack or need is, is a long step in the direction of being able to get it. In so far as possible it should be the purpose of the library to determine how these needs may be brought home to the various individuals. The survey should, in other words, reveal methods of reaching the possible library users.

Next, comes the choice of methods of carrying on the campaign, whether by personal visiting, soliciting and speaking, or through organizations such as churches, schools, clubs and trade unions, or through mailing lists, or through space in the newspapers, or a combination of several of these methods. There will need to be careful preparation of the talks, the letters, follow-up and advertising. There will need to be careful observation of those advertising principles which all successful advertisers have found advantageous with reference to technique, form, expression, character of appeal, and so on. This is a big field in itself; one that requires very careful attention, but one which is not beyond mastering by any librarian who will become interested and begin its study. There will be need for careful measurement and accounting of results of the various forms of advertising adopted, so

that successful forms may be continued, and failures not repeated. Any good book on commercial advertising will give valuable information to the librarian on these points.

Now there will be a number of objections arising to the proposal to start systematic advertising campaigns to increase the efficiency of the library. If printing must be done or if space in newspapers must be bought, some one will cry out at the expense. Yes, advertising costs time, energy and money, or if not money, at least time and energy. *But it is not what we pay, but what we get, that counts in business.* If you add 10 per cent to the total running expense for the library for the year for advertising purposes, and if that advertising doubles the number of library users, not only will the advertising pay for itself but it may also be the means of lifting the library out of running a deficit every year. That a small advertising expense such as 10 per cent will greatly increase the efficiency of any library I have not the slightest doubt, if the advertising is done even fairly well. Advertising pays in business, but a public library is a business, hence advertising will pay for the library.

A second objection to be met with is the hard luck story of the one who tried it and found that it didn't work. Now every advertising man knows that the only way to make advertising succeed is by keeping at it. Instead of spending the whole appropriation at one time, the skillful advertisers spread it over a whole year, and apply it intensively and continuously at some one class of people that has not been reached before. Anybody who tries it by spurts is sure to fail.

Another objection is that a public library should not require advertising. The fact that it is "public" should make it unnecessary to exploit its qualities and services in the methods of private businesses. This is a sort of tradition that is rapidly breaking down. We now know that a man acts only upon the knowledge that he has and pretty much upon the suggestions that he receives or that arise in his mind. How can the ideas concerning the treasures you have stored up back

of those strong, gray, stone walls ever get into John Jones' mind unless John Jones comes to the library to see for himself? Your problem is to get him to come, and to help him when he does come to get these ideas. Whatever way you use in bringing about this end is advertising, pure and simple, whether we call it that or not.

Advertising has made the great department stores possible. Advertising has caused millions to move from one home to another; has, in fact, caused entire migrations. Advertising notifies us at every hand of the possibility of being supplied with necessities, comforts and luxuries. There are no civilized men who do not respond to a certain extent to some forms of advertising. Advertising makes the saloon, the dance, the theater, and the cheap show a success. Mr. Whelan, president of the United Cigar Stores Company, recently stated that their advertising had not only increased the consumption of tobacco among old users, "It has made smokers." Now, if advertising has done such work for such a variety of lines—some good, some bad—why should it not be set to work for public libraries?

As I have tried to state, the public library is an instrument full of potential value for society more than we dream of at the present time. It is an institution that may be considered in this country as both the offspring and the servant of democracy. I can see that, next to the public school system, it is to become the very foundation of civic and social progress as affects the masses. It has the machinery now, it has the beginnings of its book collections, it has its methods. The next step in increasing its efficiency, its dividend paying capacity to society, will lie in the direction of reaching the people, of attracting them, and of getting them accustomed to look to the library for help. This is the function of advertising in business and in some form or other needs to be adopted by public libraries.

Not only libraries but all other public institutions may be criticised at present

for lack of means of publicity. Our last generation has been one in which to produce and to gather have been dominant activities. Production and accumulation and systemization have taken the form of sciences. The next generation will not only be noted for its production and accumulation but will add one new study, namely, distribution. This is now true, for business where distribution is being studied as never before by business men. Why should it not be true for public institutions which have goods or services to distribute to society?

### Trustees vs. Librarian

"Gentlemen, the meeting will come to order," said the chairman, tapping his pencil upon the table around which the members of the board of directors were seated. "The first business in order is reading the minutes of the last meeting."

"Move the reading be dispensed with and the minutes be approved."

"Second the motion," exclaimed, in unison, two other members.

"Moved and seconded that the reading of the minutes of the last meeting be dispensed with and that the minutes be approved as written. Unless objection is made, it is so ordered. The next business in order is the report of the secretary and treasurer. The report is printed and on the table before you. What is your pleasure, gentlemen?"

"Move it be approved as printed," said the previous mover.

"Second the motion," again chimed two members.

The like routine proceeded until the announcement of "New business" brought a member to his feet with a motion, this time a little out of the ordinary.

"Mr Chairman," said he, "the librarian desires to have the board extend him his usual leave of absence for the month of August. I make a motion to that effect." The motion was promptly seconded.

"Are there any remarks?" asked the chairman, perfunctorily, however, for

there rarely were any such. They were representative business men of the town, taking time from their respective occupations for the performance of a public duty; and, while they did not begrudge the time thus taken, the meetings were seldom prolonged by discussion. Indeed, they rather prided themselves upon holding their quarterly meetings well within the loose end of the noon hour. But this time, the chairman reckoned without his host. There was a new member present, who had been chosen to fill a vacancy caused by death. He had been selected because he was what was termed in the town "a large manufacturer of stoves;" the term being, nevertheless, erroneous, since he was but of medium stature. When he arose to address his fellow members they expected him to say "Question," and then sit down, that being the short and therefore safe parliamentary procedure with which newly fledged parliamentarians are wont to launch themselves on the sea of forensic life. Instead of saying "question," he asked one.

"I wish," said he, "to propose an amendment to the motion, but must first ask, for information, what is Mr Smalley's term of office as librarian."

"Until further notice, or something like that. How about that, Mr Secretary?" And the last mentioned personage after referring to the by-laws replied: "During the pleasure of the board of directors."

"Then," said the manufacturer of a large number of stoves, "I move to amend the motion of Mr Lawson so as to be that the leave of absence be granted and that the secretary be ordered to notify the present librarian that his services will not thereafter be required."

Now it will have been noticed that the members punctiliously addressed each other in the meeting as Mr Chairman, or Mr Secretary, or Mr Lawson. Elsewhere they called each other by their first names in their first names' most abbreviated form, after the manner of men. And when this thunder clap fell



upon them out of a clear sky the manners of deliberative assemblies were forgotten instantler.

"Why, Bill," exclaimed Joe Lawson, you are Smalley's own cousin. What's the matter?"

"The matter is," said the new member, whose real name we now know is Bill, "that this library has been waiting for years for that precise and adventitious circumstance. It's not because I am his cousin that I am down on him, but it is because I am his cousin that I can say it: I suppose you fellows have been thinking all this time that you think he is a smart man and a good librarian; but all the same, down in your deeper convictions, you must have known him to be a flat failure and an unmitigated ass."

At this juncture several directors produced cigars which they lighted, and as they settled back with some show of interest the speaker continued:

"Of course," said he, "he is a great bookworm, and, being my cousin, has nice manners and good looks." The members here interrupted the speaker with sundry groans and ejaculations uttered in their John, Joe and Jim capacity.

"But," he continued, "when you open his front door, you are in his back yard. There's nothing in him. They built him all right as far up as his neck—and then stopped. He came back from college, read a few essays about the progress of modern thought before the Wednesday club, and the result of the progress of modern thought in the Wednesday club was that he was made custodian of this library, the principal educational institution in this town outside of my foundry, you fellows being engaged merely in sinful barter and trade." (More groans.)

"What is a modern library? A mere collection of books? No. It is that, but it is a great deal more than that, and that more of more moment. It is the sum of human knowledge and wisdom brought down to date.

"Nobody knows what that means better than you money grubbers. If you want to ascertain the state of your business do you pick up any old balance sheet you happen to see first? No you don't. Your business changes every day in the year, and the balance sheet you want today is today's balance sheet. It is the same way with all the arts and sciences and philosophies. Take the art of asparagus. Do you make your asparagus bed in the light of the asparagus sheet of 1890? If you do, you bury your fertilizer so deep in the ground that if anybody gets the benefit of it it is some Chinaman in Yang-tse-Kiang, and if it stimulates the growth of anything it is rice and not asparagus. And yet there is that magnificent set of card-indexed balance sheets of the whole trend of creation, in charge of a trilobite, a bookworm, who does nothing but boss the book porters and look wise; and when a human being goes into the place with a human thirst for knowledge, he is left to pick it out for himself, at haphazard, and, like as not, to pick it of the vintage of 1867.

"Why, we are paying an ass, a cousin of mine, \$3600 a year for doing nothing, when we might be paying the money to a man to help men to find the living God! My friends, if there is any occasion for paying a man more than a hundred dollars a month to run a library it is because he makes it a school for men and not a book-swapping emporium for dawdlers. We are all men of the older generation. We started to school when we were five or six years old, several years too early in life, as it now appears; but every one of us has been going to school, every day, from that day to this. That is what life is for, or else life is a vain enigma. We can't get all our schooling out of cog wheels and ledgers; we must get some by dint of abstract thinking, and abstract thought must be stimulated and enlightened by abstractions. And to have a bazaar full of beautiful and enlarging thought without a live and enlivening mind and mentor to

hand out the goods is worse than having a blackboard in school without any chalk."

"Where are you going to get your chalk?" dryly interposed a man named Jim.

"Advertise 'A man wanted.' A man with brains in his skull instead of bran mash; and then say to him 'My son, go into that library, find out what is in it and what is not in it and supply that which is lacking; and when the people come to it, find out what is in them and what is lacking and strive to supply the missing parts. If necessary send off to the factory for them, but get the missing parts.'"

"I want to ask this innepotistic innovator," said Jim, "just what he means by this altruistic proposition. I don't quite understand it."

The chairman then said: "If the gentleman who has the floor understands the question, he may answer it."

"I understand all but the scurrillous epithet which the gentleman has superfluously interpolated in his interrogatory," said the speaker, with a sidelong glance at the person referred to. "I can best explain my meaning with the aid of illustration. Let us take the case of a young man who comes to the library for a book. Now, he may want a good book, and yet by reason of unfortuitous circumstances may get hold of a bad one, a bad one for him. Say he wants an autobiography, and selects from the list a book written in the style of the Reviewers of the period of 1840. He may wade through it, but the result will be a lifelong avoidance of autobiography. Suppose, on the other hand, he chances upon a work like that of Stillman. He will be both interested and enriched, and will be led onward into an ever widening acquaintance with great men—those men who pass by on the other side of the hill, who have seen so much that we can never see or know except from them. A man may want a good book and yet get a bad one. It is a matter of circumstance. Now, take the case of a youth who goes there for a bad book, not an

intrinsically bad book, but a bad one for him. Even he may be led to select a good one, and have his desire satisfied at the same time. He has arrived at the period of romance. He is thinking that he is something of a wolf, and that he will soon begin to howl. That he is a game rooster and his spurs are beginning to grow. He has notions of becoming some kind of a hero or, it may be, brigand, with a gun and a revolver and 'a magnificently caparisoned steed.' He wants a story of blood and thunder and heavy villains. He is really in a bad way. It is fortunate if he passes through this period of his growth and keeps out of jail. You have all managed to become 'respectable citizens,' but the grins on your respectable and respective faces tell me, if I didn't know it before, how near you came to the other sort of thing. Some of you even tried to lead me astray. But I do not blame or reproach you. It was the heated period of the blood. Suppose a fortuitous circumstance operates to place the youth I describe in the possession of a story, such as he wants, but one, for instance, by a man named Boldrewood, entitled 'Robbery under arms.' It will prove the most fascinating book he ever read, but instead of making a robber out of him it will make him an honest man. When he finishes the tale he will say to himself 'The way of the transgressor is hard—hard on the transgressor and harder still on his folks,' and he will never believe otherwise as long as he lives."

"You ought to read that book yourself, Bill," interrupted the chairman.

"Too late. My blood is not so hot as it was. Now," he concluded, "I have tried to show what fortuitous circumstance may do, and the custodian of a library ought to be, in a library, the very personification of the genius of Fortuitous Circumstance. The books are there, each, of its kind, being a good book for somebody and a bad one for some other body. The circumstances are there, each of its kind, good and bad. Some are beyond human control, but many are not. They are susceptible to influence and

control by means of various levers, and the librarian should be a man that knows how to pull them, and he should stand there, with his levers, at work."

When the speaker sat down he was greeted with certain Jim-like and Bill-like demonstrations, whether of approval or otherwise only Jims and Bills are able to determine, after which the question arose upon the adoption of the amendment.

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**Responsibilities of Library Trustees\***  
**W. L. Brewster, library trustee, Portland, Ore.**

The main purpose of a public library is the education of the people. While the object of the early libraries may have been to furnish diversion and information, with the use of tax money and the consequent greater interest of the public, there has come the definite purpose of making libraries a means of education. It has become apparent that simply furnishing the books is not enough and a highly organized system is being developed to aid students of all ages in the pursuit of every branch of learning. Not only are books chosen fitted to each of the school grades, but the librarians are educating the mothers and teachers in the selection and use of children's books. The library recognizes as one of its most important duties a close co-operation with parents and school boards in training children. Story-hours, collections of pictures, duplicate copies relating to the studies, class-room libraries, instruction to schools in the use of the library, attendance on mothers' and teachers' clubs are only a few of the activities in which the libraries engage in their endeavor to educate children.

The majority of readers, however, are past the school age. The means used to help and influence them are more indirect, but nevertheless, are quite definite. In addition to the general circulating and reference books, there are special collections on as many technical subjects as the community is interested

in; there are lecture courses and classes; reading lists are made for individuals, clubs and organizations of all kinds, and in every possible way the library seeks to induce people to use its resources.

The trustees are responsible for accomplishing these results. They must obtain the necessary money by private gift and public tax; select the librarian and supply her with the necessary assistant librarians; determine on the site and plans for the building; study the needs of the community both for today and the future, and see that the needs are met by fulfillment; represent the library before the general public, explaining its requirements and interesting people in its welfare.

The responsibilities of trustees are so great and their work so varied that all the talents and special training of the best men and women in the different callings of life are required. Capacity and willingness to work are necessary, and especially the ability to work with other people. No one should be selected merely because his name carries weight in the community, or because he is a Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, labor unionist or Mason, or because he has filled a room in his house with books of the subscription agent, and is therefore a book-lover.

The first duty of a board of trustees is to obtain the money for the library; the second, is to obtain the librarian and as far as this occasion is concerned, the discussion will be limited to the responsibility involved in the selection and work of the librarian. While enumerating the activities of a library, it must have been evident that only a person trained and experienced in such work can carry it on successfully. No trustee is such an expert and he should not expect to be. But the humanness of trustees never reveals itself more plainly than in their lack of modesty on this subject. Hard work by a trustee in any department of the library will cure him of his vanity, make him appreciate the true expertness of the librarian and thereby increase his own wisdom and value. The greatest

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\*Read before Northwestern Pacific library association at Victoria, B. C., September 5, 1911.

care, therefore, should be taken in selecting the persons who are to do the library's work day by day. Library school training and experience in a progressive and well conducted library are among the evident requirements, other qualifications of a more personal nature will occur to all of you.

The trustees' responsibility is to obtain and keep such a librarian. It is a responsibility which is too often shirked with excuses about lack of funds or the necessity of giving the position to some resident of the town, or worst of all that the work is light, does not call for much intelligence and does not deserve good pay. The lack of funds is the only excuse which deserves serious consideration. Until a board of trustees has gained experience and is able to judge from the results with what wisdom they have apportioned their budget, it will be almost impossible to convince them of the comparatively large sums which must be set apart for salaries. Yet on the expertness of the librarians depends the success or failure of the work for which the trustees are responsible. It is unfair and shortsighted to expect valuable service from underpaid librarians. We must be willing to pay librarians (after years of special training) salaries comparable to those paid teachers and persons in other professions where similar requirements obtain. The missionary spirit among those entering library service has made many of them ready to work for less money than they could obtain elsewhere, but trustees cannot expect this to be a permanent sentiment and should not be so small-minded as to trade upon it.

The lack of funds, moreover, is only a matter of percentages. All boards of trustees have some money and it is the division of that money which is the question for settlement. Every board has almost constantly before it the purchase of books and the enlargement of quarters. Whether it is the hiring of the first room, the erection of a main building or the installation of a reading station, the trustees have to face the extra

expense which is called for by these increased quarters, and too often the enlargement is made without due regard to the cost of maintenance, and especially of increased service. It is the part of wisdom in contemplating all such extensions to realize the cost of the library labor involved and to make provision for that first of all. This rule, I believe, is universal. If, for example, a library were being started in a village and five hundred dollars were in sight for expenditure during the first year, the trustees would be wise to hire the most expert and capable librarian obtainable at a salary of fifty dollars per month. The books, periodicals, room, heat, light, janitor service and the extra one hundred dollars for salary will all follow. Every dollar spent and every book obtained would be worked to its limit and at the end of the year, the public who have supplied the money and used the library will be satisfied and the trustees be in a position to congratulate themselves and raise the salary to sixty dollars per month.

This method applies equally well to larger libraries. Do you not know of trustees who have spent their money on books, buildings and equipment until too small an amount was left for salaries and have found themselves with a badly served public and an underpaid overworked staff? Once more let us realize that buildings and books do not make a library but that it is only books in intelligent use that justify our existence.

When this paragon of library virtues has been secured, the responsibilities of the trustees have, of course, only commenced but the best of beginnings has been made. At the various committee meetings they are confronted with a definite list of the business to be transacted; there are rules to be amended, purchases to be made, assistants to be employed. On all of these the librarian has an opinion, but on them the trustees must act. There are and should be demands far in excess of the money to satisfy them. The money question is always in evidence with the trustees, they must

appreciate the needs of the library, watch every avenue of development in order to vote understandingly on the librarian's recommendations, and they must of necessity choose in which of several ways the library money is to be spent. Every few years, at the best, new ways must be found for increasing the library's money supply and let us remember that while it is the librarian's business to recommend ways of spending, it is on the other hand the exclusive responsibility of the trustees to obtain the money for carrying out such recommendations. No librarian should ever be allowed to ask for library money either from public body or private person.

I have already intimated that librarians are exceptionally qualified and skilled persons, who are in a class quite apart by themselves, and as is often the case they have a strong love for the technique of their profession. Many of them seem to consider the library as their experiment station or laboratory. There is always bound to be something of this kind among enthusiastic professional people, but that is no reason why trustees should give up their common sense and allow what after all is only a means to become an end in itself. Another foible of librarians is their love of statistics. I hope the day is near at hand when certain things may be considered as proved without the necessity of accumulating more figures. Cannot this association institute a reform for the reduction of statistics? May I suggest as reasons for it that most of us have poor memories for figures and most statistics are inaccurate?

These are only slight blemishes, however, on the otherwise spotless character of librarians. Trustees appreciate the honor they have in working with such people. We have the greatest enjoyment in helping them develop the perfect library, and when we find ourselves impeding the wheel of progress by our conservatism or ignorance we are always prepared to perform our last responsibility—and resign.

### "Christabel—by Coleridge"

Elizabeth Carter, Belle Mead, New Jersey

The librarian sat on her high stool behind the delivery desk. It was a high stool with a chair back and something wrong with the spring underneath. It was reached by placing one foot on a small foot rest and vaulting, as it were, lightly into the saddle; whereupon the saddle wobbled and emitted a piteous groan. Once in, it was very hard to get out of, particularly for this librarian, as the foot rest which was supposed to contribute to the ease of one's descent was far beyond the reach of a groping foot (when one's proportions are of the kind poetically called "fairy like"). However, as it was now eight o'clock and it was the first time she had sat down since the clock struck six, she was in a mood to be humbly grateful for any sort of seat, but she sat very straight and did not touch the chair back for it was a delusion and a snare. The librarian's life was not an exciting one, at least in outward circumstance. But she held in her heart a shy and secret expectancy, companion of a mystic passion. There were certain books, or portions of books, which to her were not as other books were, being seen always through a golden glamor, so that their very names strangely stirred her, and their opening lines were purest music. Their names were thus, in order of amount—one might say "density"—of glamor: "The Faerie Queene," "The shepherd's calendar," "An hymne of Heavenly love," "An hymne of Heavenly beautie," "The knight's tale," "The tale of Custance," "Lycidas," "Le Belle dame sans Merci," "This ae nighte, this ae nighte," "Songs of innocence," "Songs of experience," the entire poetical works of Walter Scott, including the notes in the old Globe edition, "Christabel," "Kubla Khan," the second stanza of Arnold's "Westminster Abbey," "Henry IV," "Much ado about nothing," "Religio Medici," "The ancient monk," "Woodstock," "The trumpet major," Southey's life of Nelson, The dialogues of St.



Catherine of Siena, and Hooker's "Ecclesiastical polity." The secret expectancy which sustained the librarian through many a seemingly monotonous hour was that on some fortunate day an advancing patron, or stranger, might inquire concerning one of these enshrined treasures. Thus far in her library days this all desirable thing had never happened, but the greatest charm of the delivery desk is that it is pervaded by the very spirit of Micawber, and that which has never happened at any moment *may* happen, a consideration of the greatest value to an adventurous spirit. Also the librarian had visions, and this was one of them: the house of routine which was the common day standing on the edge of a mighty forest which was the world of great poetry. This forest was a summer forest full of moonlight and had "hollow glades," spots holy and enchanted, whence one might hear the sudden song of nightingales, and see the midsummer fairies dance.

She had another, much milder, source of amusement in guessing by the rapid study of an approaching countenance what book or subject was the lure which led its owner thither. Young men with an "accurate" expression might be safely classed in 300, anywhere from statistics to municipal government, in 530, 540 or in 600, when it was usually engineering. As to "New thought," Christian science, "Isis unveiled," and kindred subjects, one was rarely mistaken. In the afternoon when ladies abounded there was a latest fiction type, a story-hour type, and a child-study type.

Now, on this momentous evening, "this ae night, this ae night," a young man advanced to the desk. The librarian, who feared sometimes that her own eye was acquiring the expression she called "accurate," rapidly classified him. He was going to ask for "Rosalind at Red gate," at that time one of the new books, or for a Debater's hand book.

*He asked for "Christabel."*

Thus it is with the great events of life. We prepare ourselves for them, with earnest care; we hold ourselves as we

believe, in soldier-like readiness, but the actual moment finds "all set at six and seven." The librarian had been trained in a hard school not to connect Rosalind with any Forest of Arden, or Helen with Troy or Emelye with any tale of Knight or squire either. Therefore an instant's hesitation resulted while there flashed upon her inward eye a score of brightly colored novels with frontispieces by Christy, and the inward eye, not now the bliss of solitude but a hurrying messenger, reported no "Christabel" among them. So hard it is for us to believe in good fortune when it stands smiling at our very doors. "—by Coleridge," added the young man explanatorily.

It is to be feared that the librarian's smile on this occasion was of a disconcerting brightness, not the vague indication or promise of a smile with which one sometimes received commissions, for she remembered afterward that the young man had smiled back with a slight look of bewilderment. She did not wait to feel for the foot rest but slid from her high seat with the ease and swiftness of descent in dreams, and kneeling among the stacks with an electric bulb in her hand, (after six o'clock any book that happens to be wanted is invariably on the lowest or highest shelf and is literally "hid treasure"), her suspense was almost painful. For the school children were studying "The ancient mariner," and what if, through some one's inadvertence, all the copies of Coleridge should be out! They *were* out. But, rapture of relief, here was "Christabel" bound by itself in a tiny volume, a cheap edition not smothered in notes, thank goodness.

"Tis the middle of night by the castle clock,  
And the owls have awakened the crowing cock."

Oh, words of clear enchantment, woven into one's childhood when, lying on the floor, one poured over the steel engraving of Christabel and Geraldine facing one another on the other side of the oak, words that are forevermore a part of life, like those other dearer opening lines, "The stag at eve," and

"A gentil knighte was pricking on the plaine!"

No, the young man would not have it charged—he only wanted to read it. He took it to a table, little dreaming of the radiance he had left in the heart of the librarian.

Three persons were suddenly waiting in line, two with books, one with questions. Her rest was over. But the doors and windows of the house of routine had been flung open wide—nay, the very walls had fallen, and all about her "the forest murmured like a shell."

### Adaptations

Jeffrey, whom Byron flayed so vigorously in his "English bards and Scotch reviewers," makes the following remarkable statement:

There never was an age so prolific of popular poetry as that in which we now live; and as wealth, population and education extend the produce is likely to go on increasing. The last ten years have produced, we think, an annual supply of about ten thousand lines of good staple poetry—poetry from the very first hands that we can boast of. Now if this goes on for a hundred years longer, what a task will await the poetical readers of 1919. Our living poets will then be nearly as old as Pope and Swift are at present; and if Scott and Byron and Campbell have already cast Pope and Swift a good deal into the shade, in what form and dimensions are they themselves likely to be presented to the eyes of their grandchildren? The thought, we own, is a little appalling; and we confess, we see nothing better to imagine than that they may find a comfortable place in some new collection of specimens \* \* \* There shall posterity still hang with rapture on the half of Campbell, and the fourth part of Bryan and the sixth of Scott, and the scattered tithes of Crabbe and three per cent of Southey.

It would be interesting, as the mediums say, to get into communication with Jeffrey, and ask him what he thinks of his gift of prophecy. It is true that the readers of this generation are content with the fraction of Scott, Byron and Southey that he has assigned them; but when we compare the difference in books which are read by the children of our own day, and the classics which Scott and his contemporaries were

obliged to read, it is not hard to account for a comparison drawn by Chesterton in his essay on Scott:

Though his soul may be in rags, every man of Scott speaks like a king \* \* \* Take any contemporary work of fiction and turn to the scene where the young Socialist denounces the millionaire, and then compare the stilted sociological lecture given by that self-sacrificing bore with the surging joy of words in Rob Roy's declaration of himself, or Athelstane's defiance of DeBracy.

Why then, should his stories be retold by an inferior author and given to a child in that form? If he is too young to appreciate Scott, educate him to a point where he is not, instead of telling him the plot of *Ivanhoe* and robbing him of the desire to read the book. There is no instruction to be gained by doing this, for Scott deviated from history to suit the purposes of his story. His heroes, whether dressed in armor or kilts, are high-minded gentlemen of his own day, for he was too good an artist not to draw from living models.

Lamb's *Tales from Shakespeare* and Kingsley's Greek heroes are exceptions to this rule on account of their high rank in literature and also because the words of the original have been closely followed. It is unfortunate that Hawthorne's *Tanglewood tales* should be substituted for the Greek heroes. Compare this passage from "*Perseus*" for instance:

"Better to die in the flower of youth, on the chance of winning a noble name than live at ease like the sheep, and die unloved and unrenowned."

"You would make a very handsome marble statue, it is true, and it would be a considerable number of years before you crumbled away; but on the whole, one would rather be a young man for a few years than a stone image for a great many."

The labored playfulness of Hawthorne's words compares unfavorably with the rhythm of Kingsley's. The sentiment of the latter, too, is more in harmony with the ideals of childhood.

It is also a mistake to give a dry summary of the prologue to the *Canterbury tales* instead of a literal translation. Any

child will be amused, if not edified by the account of the table manners of the prioress.

There should be abridged and expurgated editions of the classics for the benefit of children who may never go through high school, but the part which is left should be in the words of the original author. The adapters could make a better use of their talents in writing miniature histories. There is enough material in the history of Spain, for instance, to start a new Arabian Nights.

ROSE M. VICKERS.

Washington, D. C.

### Write for Information

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

May we have space for a protest in your valuable publication?

Librarians, almost invariably, when they find a publisher has made a mistake in filling an order or find an imperfection in a volume sent them, return the package or shipment by express collect. They do not consider the expense to the publisher, and this indifference on the part of librarians becomes a source of considerable expense to the publishers during the year.

Recently in filling a small order for a library in Texas we made a mistake and the material was returned with 75c charges. The price at which the material was sold was 60c. The prepaid transportation to the library was 18c and the package could have been returned to us at the same rate. Had the librarian corresponded with us before returning we would have sent her new material and asked her to destroy or use the old as best she could as the material in its imperfect condition was not worth to us even the return postage. We have probably fifty cases like this in a year and we believe that if librarians realized the injustice of this unnecessary expense that they would seek to cooperate with the publishers. Where mail or special prepaid rate is cheaper publishers invariably prepay and charge to the customers' account, thus giving them the benefit of

the reduced rate. We would be more patient if librarians did not know better. It is the arbitrary manner in which these are returned that disturbs us.

We are sure that our experience must be the experience of every other publisher and we believe that you will be promoting a service to both publisher and librarian by bringing this matter to the attention of all library people. Anything that tends to a more economical handling of the publishing business must in the end result in better prices or better service to the people served.

PUBLISHERS.

### For Library Distribution

Announcement is made of the publication for private circulation only of John Muir's memorial to Edward H. Harri-man, under the title of "E. H. Harri-man." The books cannot be bought, but a copy will be sent free to any librarian who will make application to the publishers, Doubleday, Page & Company, Garden City, New York. The little volume will have value for its rarity as well as its value as a tribute of one great man to another.

### A Useful Column

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

It may be of interest to your readers to know that there are some bibliographies of books for high school teachers and grade schools, on astronomy and manual arts, in the *School News* for May, 1912. It may also be interesting to know that the *School News* is one of the very few educational magazines that conducts a regular library column. This column is useful to both schools and librarians of small libraries.

ANGE V. MILNER,

Ill. State Normal university.

The secretary for Illinois of the American Medical Association council on public health instruction, Dr Josephine Milligan, 610 W. State St., Jacksonville, Ill., will send to any librarian asking for it a copy of a short bibliography on "Sex education," which has been prepared un-

der instruction for the Public Health Education committee.

### Ask for What You Want

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Librarians as a class firmly believe in the value of the favor of the woman's clubs over the country and the consequent readiness to "return the favor" sometimes leads to rather embarrassing situations as the letter below will illustrate. A librarian who has done some notable work in library extension received as a consequence of her special work a letter which shows one phase of appreciation of the value of librarians. The letter was as follows:

"Dear Miss ———

"Pardon this intrusion upon your time but seeing your likeness in a magazine and reading some of your articles prompts me to ask a favor of you and it is if you will please write me a short article on 'The novels of Maurice Hewlett.' I know you will think me very presumptuous but it will be no exertion for you and will be granting a great favor. I don't believe you want to be paid for every article, do you, when you will be conferring such a favor? Your countenance appeals to me and so I write asking this favor. I have access to so few of his books and really do not care for him as a writer, so I find it quite a task to prepare a lengthy article, for our literary club on the subject, especially as I am a very busy mother and have had so much sickness and have so short a time to prepare an article. If you can write me a humorous statement or two on the subject please do so, as long dry articles are so tiresome. Please grant my request and you will be bestowing a great favor."

### For Free Distribution

The library of the American bankers association, 11 Pine street, New York, has a limited number of the following pamphlets on currency reform and other financial subjects, for distribution to libraries upon request.

MARION R. GLENN, librarian.

Aldrich, N. W.

Address on the proposed National Reserve association before the annual convention of the A. B. A. at New Orleans, Nov. 21, 1911.

Anderson, F. B.

Relation of the National Reserve association to foreign trade and banks, and the world's financial center.

Anderson, F. B.

The need of banking and currency reform.

Forgan, J. B.

Clearing house examinations by clearing house examiners.

National monetary commission.

Suggested plan for monetary legislation, January 16, 1911.

Same as revised by the currency commission of the American Bankers' association, April 23, 1911.

Report of the National monetary commission, with text of bill creating a National Reserve association, January 9, 1912.

Reynolds, Arthur.

The Aldrich plan.

Some aids to the solution of our financial problems.

The unsettled currency problem.

Reynolds, G. M.

The Aldrich currency plan interpreted.

Savings Bank Section, A. B. A.

How to operate a school savings bank.

Warburg, Paul M.

The discount system in Europe.

For copies of the following pamphlets address the National Citizens League at 100 Broad street, N. Y., or 223 West Jackson boulevard, Chicago.

Bartlett, A. C.

Banking reform as seen by commercial interests.

Cornwell, W. C.

The National Reserve association secure from political control.

Co-operation or centralization?

Farwell, J. V.

Importance of monetary reform to business men.

Laughlin, J. L.

Banking control.

Movement of cotton in the South.

Banking reform and a National Reserve association.

Principles and methods of banking reform.

MacVeagh, Franklin.

Banking and currency reform.

Perrin, John.

Trade fluctuations and panics.

Roberts, G. E.

Functions of a gold reserve.

Taft, W. H.

Recent addresses on banking reform.

### Aristocracy vs. Democracy

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

In a recent visit to a library which may be reached from the center of New York City without loss of time and without much effort, I heard a most extraordinary conversation about the American library institute. I had previously heard of the American librarian as an individual whose heart was full of love and service for his fellow-man. But I questioned on that occasion whether this latter did not mean those outside of the library ranks. They did not seem to love *everybody* they talked about in that library. They did not seem to love the American library institute and its promoters at all! What has it done or left undone to deserve to be called a "group of lamelli-rostres?" I couldn't make out from the discussion except it attempted to be very high-class, and none of those talking desired to be so. They all preferred to be *hoi polloi*. Is there anything that prevents them from following their inclination? They seemed to me to be wholly qualified. Why not exercise the much praised American independence and everybody belong to what he likes best, without so much fuss?

LIBRARY VISITOR.

(The Editor speaks on this in another place and will only point out here the extremely democratic character of the body on whose account grief is expressed at the existence of the A. L. I. The council of the A. L. A. is now made up of practically 80 members. Of these, 17 are ex-presidents of the A. L. A., six are members of the executive board (three of these are ex-presidents), three, presidents of affiliated societies (one an ex-president), 25 are members at large and 25 are elected members by the council itself—more than two-thirds of its entire membership removed entirely from control of the association. Of those elected by the council, six are connected with large universities, three are heads of state library organizations, 15 are heads in large city libraries, (no small cities represented) and one is un-

attached. The 17 ex-presidents include the librarian of the National library, one state librarian, four university librarians, seven large city librarians, one small city librarian and three unattached or retired librarians.)

### A Significant But Not Unusual Situation

The following letter from a librarian in a good town of nearly 3,000 tells a story that is entirely too frequently met in library extension:

\_\_\_\_\_, May 2, 1912.

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

You will probably be surprised to know that I resigned my position as librarian here April 1. The resignation went into effect the middle of the month. I wrote my letter to the library board the first of March stating that I would work on the present salary, \$30 per month, until April 1, and then if they could not raise my salary to \$40 per month, I was willing for them to hire some one else. The annual report of the library was presented to the city council the first of April, and I thought it might be possible to get a larger appropriation for the library at that time. But we got no more than we had been getting, \$1,000 per year, which is the same that we have been getting ever since the library was built in 1905.

I know the librarian is getting as much as possible with an appropriation of only \$1,000 per year, so I thought as there was no prospect of getting more, I would resign and seek a more remunerative position some where else. I have worked hard here to make the library invaluable to the community. The town has not grown, however, so I do not think the salary will be any larger very soon.

I was librarian here for four years and four months, and I love the work. I think the work was too confining, however, as I had no assistant, and the library was open every afternoon and evening in the week, from 1:30 to 5:30 and from 7 to 9 p. m. Consequently I had to work many extra hours. I had to catalog all new books, mend, do all reference and loan work, and everything myself. Besides, our library is a social center for the young people in the evenings, and I had about 200 children and high school students at the tables nearly every evening during the school year. That is hard on a person's nerves.

If I ever wanted to get out for a vacation, or for an afternoon or an evening, I was obliged to hire a substitute, who could do only the routine work, and pay her at the



same rate that I was paid, out of my own wages. You possibly remember that I spoke of this in the library conference once, and you answered that no library board should expect so much of a librarian, as she was only human.

No teacher here gets less than \$50 a month, and many of them get much more; yet the librarian has to work just as many hours a day as the teachers do, and six days in the week instead of five. I believe I did as much work for the school children as any one teacher in the schools.

I do not want you to think that I am complaining, for I have enjoyed my work very much and I have been at home. I am simply stating facts.

I was graduated from the Civic-Historic course of our state university, taught three years, took the short course in the Wisconsin library school, and have had four years and four months experience as librarian here; so it seems to me that I ought to be able to get more than \$30 per month now.

Perhaps I shall be obliged to do other work than library service, for I must have more money on which to live, but I shall be very sorry if it happens.

### Library Pensions

What, if anything, is proposed anywhere for a retiring allowance for library workers? Is there any fund anywhere available for this worthy object?

X. Y. Z.

There is no general fund for library pensions. A few libraries allow an organization of the staff for pension purposes, but this is a voluntary contribution on the part of all concerned.

The trustees of the University of Chicago have arranged a system of retiring allowances and for this purpose have planned to set aside not less than \$2,000,000.

This is of interest to librarians in only so far as provision is made for those in the library ranks. The director or associate director of the university library only is included. Widows of professors are also included in the computation. Provision is made very generously for those who have been in the service of the university, in a rank not lower than assistant professor, and for members of the teaching staff of several schools, but no member of the library force other than

director or associate director is mentioned.

### The D. C. Applied to Canada

The cataloging department of the Toronto public library has made an extension of the Dewey decimal classification applied to Canada. This has been printed and may be had upon application to the library.

### A Memorial Volume

It is contemplated to issue a volume of essays and addresses by Frederick M. Crunden, with a portrait and a brief sketch of his life, edited by Mrs Crunden, provided a sufficient number of subscriptions can be obtained in advance at not to exceed two dollars a volume. It will be necessary to obtain at least 500 subscriptions before proceeding with the work. Kindly notify the St. Louis public library of the number of copies wanted.

A notable organization is that made up of representatives of libraries, museums and educational institutions of Chicago under the name of the Council for library and museum extension. Its purpose is to give publicity to Chicago's educational opportunities.

While its efforts will be confined, of course, to the people of Chicago, its announcements and publications will carry information that can be used by any library or any number of users, and museums. It has already published an illustrated hand-book of 80 pages, giving information concerning over 80 leading educational institutions in Chicago. A monthly bulletin is also issued by the council, which gives the lectures and programs of the various activities constantly going on in these institutions holding membership.

The officers of the council are: N. H. Carpenter of the Art institute, president; Henry E. Legler, Chicago public library, vice-president; Walter A. Payne, of the University of Chicago, secretary-treasurer.

## Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

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By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

**Trustees**—The contributions to PUBLIC LIBRARIES this month are particularly interesting for trustees and it will be a valuable work on the part of the librarians if the latter see to it that trustees read them. Many an uninterested trustee has become a helpful co-worker by having his attention drawn to sources of information for himself. A chance "to see ourself as others see us" often leads to good results. Most trustees as well as librarians, will enjoy reading "Trustees vs. librarians," "Responsibilities of library trustees" and the other interesting presentations.

**A time for free speech**—Librarians of many years' experience, of wide responsibilities and having frequent demands on their time will welcome the opportunity to come together without responsibilities, without demands, without formality to discuss the problems in their own realm, to hear free from restraint,

the real opinions of those of their own group, on the problems which though common in a way to all librarians, have features which can be best understood by such discussion as is not possible in a meeting of many minds of many kinds.

A meeting of the American Library institute has been called for May 27 at Ottawa and the topic chosen for the discussion. The cost of administration particularly in large libraries, is one which can not fail to be valuable to all in charge of such institutions.

The fact that there are some who shy at the mention of the A. L. I., passing by on the outside, sure that they see ugly ducklings in this "lamellirostral group" instead of cygnets, is nothing against the institute, rather the reverse. By their attitude they only deprive themselves and those whom they lead, of an opportunity to rid themselves of what may be atrophy or may be a case of hyper-acidity caused by a too long indulgence in the sweets of self-admiration. If the former be the malady, activity of any kind is better than sluggishness; if the latter, then those who are afraid that a society without machinery for free discussions of questions relating to libraries will engender caste, might take a course, under the belief, *similia similibus curantur* since *similia similibus percipiuntur*.

**Seeming to know**—A recent editorial in *The Dial* entitled "Raw material" has so much good sense packed into it, that everyone engaged in passing on or in or out books ought to read, ponder and assimilate it.

The article opens with a quotation from H. G. Wells:

We are going to write about it all. We are going to write about business and

finance and politics and precedence and pretentiousness and decorum and indecorum until a thousand pretenses and ten thousand impostures shrivel in the cold, clear air of our elucidation.

*The Dial* remarks:

He and his fellow-workers have not only written about pretty near everything, but have continued to jar the pedestal upon which many an old-fashioned notion of justice and morality seemed to stand secure. We do not think that these associated iconoclasts have really smashed many images but they have stirred up a great intellectual rumpus, and have found a half-educated public ready to applaud their efforts.

A parallel for this may be found in certain movements along library lines.

*The Dial* says further:

It is rather amusing to note the sort of following that gathers about our preachers of new gospels. The young men and women, unbalanced for lack of reflection and uninformed for lack of serious educational application, who rally around the new standard bearers, do not greatly impress the judicious observer, because they are so evidently without poise or background. They have not in their hands the touchstones of criticism; whether for ideas or the expression of ideas; and one may shrewdly suspect that they would not know how to use them if they had. They get into a state of great excitement about some modern writer who deals with a vital subject in a third-class way, whereas if they were really acquainted with literature they would know that the same subject had been dealt with in a first-class way long before.

It may be that some of the judgments of the world need revising, but it must not be forgotten that there is an immense presumption in favor of the conclusions to which accumulated experience has led, and that the wisdom of the ages is not lightly to be upset. The case for conservatism is not based upon unreasoning prejudice, but partly upon this presumption, and partly upon the instinct which warns the wise that, however strong may appear the argument for some radical innovation, there are sure

to be in its train unforeseen and incalculable consequences which may put its advocates to confusion after the mischief is done.

#### Revision of A. L. A. constitution—

The present constitution and by-laws of the American library association have been in effect unchanged since their adoption at the Bretton Woods conference. Have they met the need out of which the revision grew?

The revised code was formulated by a committee of ex-presidents of the association, and the constitution and by-laws were adopted after a spirited debate which presaged a determined effort at future amendment of the article defining the membership of the council. At each recurring conference, there has been a lively debate over this point of contention, the feature found objectionable by a considerable element of the association being the provision whereby the council chooses twenty-five of its own members without voice from the rest of the association.

With the exception of this undemocratic and unwise principle of self-perpetuation (the by-laws providing further that the prohibition of the re-election of a councilor for two consecutive terms shall not apply to the councilors elected by the council itself), the revised constitution has proved a good working instrument creditable as to framework to those who built it. In this one particular only has it sadly failed of effectiveness or satisfaction. The listless meetings of the council, the dissatisfaction among the rank and file that they are not privileged to name all their representatives, the unduly large number of councilors and consequent ineffective deliberations, all attest that this one provision of the constitution is a failure. No doubt it will be sought at the Ottawa conference to take the primary step for the elimination or modification of the article referred to. The specious technical interposition which prevailed at Pasadena ought not again prevail to defeat the will of the great majority.

### Library Administration as Affected by Commission Form of Govern- ment in Illinois

Anna May Price, University of Illinois,  
Urbana

There are 17 cities in Illinois which have adopted the commission form of government, viz: Braceville, Carbondale, Clinton, Decatur, Dixon, Elgin, Hillsboro, Jacksonville, Kewanee, Moline, Ottawa, Pekin, Rochelle, Rock Island, Springfield, Spring Valley and Waukegan.

Of these cities Braceville and Carbondale have no public library, Elgin, Kewanee and Rochelle have township libraries and are therefore not under municipal administration. Reddick's library, Ottawa, being an endowed library and receiving but a small appropriation from the city, is practically independent. Full authority is reposed in the board of trustees by the will, which also states the number of trustees, though they are named by the city council. This reduces the number to 11 city libraries to be affected by the new form of government.

Under the new form the city council consists of a mayor and four commissioners. They are elected by the people, are remunerated officers and serve for a term of four years.

They possess and shall exercise all executive and legislative powers and duties now held and exercised by the mayor, city council, village trustees, board of library trustees, city clerk, city attorney and all other officers in cities and villages incorporated under the general incorporation law of the state of Illinois (Sec. 23). In order to insure more thorough administration all the civic business and interests of whatever nature are divided into five departments, each commissioner acting as chairman of one. In Illinois the departments are:

The department of public affairs.

The department of accounts and finance.

The department of public health and safety.

The department of public property.

The department of streets and public improvements.

By virtue of his office, the mayor is chairman of the department of public affairs. The other four commissioners are not elected by the people to their several departments but at the first meeting of the council after election each commissioner is assigned by a majority vote to one of the four remaining departments. Such an arrangement affords an opportunity for the council to make a reassignment at any time that public affairs would seem to be benefited by a change. The Iowa law possesses the same provision and commission councils have taken advantage of it. Each city council also determines by ordinance the powers and duties of each department and assigns to each, certain public affairs for special supervision. Some interests naturally assign themselves to departments, as, the auditing of accounts to the department of accounts and finances; the police system to the department of health and safety. Others, such as the public libraries, do not so clearly arrange themselves.

The commission council as before stated, has vested in itself all the powers and duties of the former mayor, council and all city officers appointed and elected, *yet it may at its discretion* elect such officers as a city clerk, city attorney, chief of police, three library trustees and other officers provided for by the Local improvement act of 1897 (Commission form sec. 24). With regard to the library trustees, the commission form of government act was amended in 1911 to read library trustees without designating the number.

Nothing is said in the Act concerning the length of the term of office of the trustees.

Libraries operating under the commission form have thus found their administration affected more particularly in these points, the number of trustees, as all commission councils have thus far appointed trustees, the term of office and more special supervision by reason of being assigned to one of the five depart-

ments. The results of the past year show that the commission councils of Clinton, Decatur, Dixon, Hillsboro, Spring Valley and Waukegan have each appointed three library trustees, Waukegan for a term of one year, Hillsboro for three years and the others for a term of four years. Decatur this year changes the number of trustees to five with a term of office for five years, one trustee to be appointed each year. In Springfield the old library board is holding over, the commission council having thus far neglected to legislate in library affairs. Jacksonville, Moline, Pekin and Rock Island have each appointed nine trustees, with the term of office as three years, three new trustees to be appointed each year. This is in accordance with the general library law for the establishment of public libraries in the state of Illinois. These four councils have thus interpreted the commission form of government act to give to the city council the right to elect the trustees, the term of office and powers and duties of the trustees being still regulated by the general library law for the state, as the commission law is silent upon these facts. Such an interpretation would disturb but little the present library administration and would meet with no opposition on the part of librarians. Unfortunately every four years a new commission council is elected which has the power to retain all executive and administrative powers of all officers even of the library trustees and it may prefer not to elect any library trustees (sec. 23), but allow the commissioner, to whom the library is assigned for supervision, to define the policy of the library.

The city ordinance has some power and value. The council may create a library board, and define by ordinance the number of trustees, but because of the complete authority vested in the commission council which comes fresh to each new council as it is elected, one council cannot pass ordinances which will infringe upon the rights of another council. The new council as above stated, has the right to appoint the li-

brary trustees or to act as a library board itself. Therefore it would seem as though the ordinance did not possess the power to state the term, and that no commission council can appoint officers for a longer term of office than its own.

Jacksonville, Moline, Pekin and Rock Island found a precedent for their interpretation in several Iowa cities. There is this difference, the Iowa library law provides for nine trustees to be appointed by the council for a term of six years, three trustees being appointed every two years. The Iowa commission form of government law empowers the council to appoint three library trustees. The life of the council is two years, so each new council appoints three new trustees.

Another point of difference in the administration under the new form of government is the special supervision of the library. Formerly the supervision was limited to requiring on the part of the council an annual report from the library board and to the fact that a member of the council might also be a member of the library board. The commission plan places the library under the immediate supervision of one of the five commissioners. Each city determines for itself which one. Hillsboro, Rock Island and Spring Valley assign the library to the department of public property, the other cities, to the department of public affairs, of which the mayor is always chairman. Just how largely the commissioner in charge will try to influence library administration has not been fully determined in Illinois. Waukegan shows to what extent the authority of the commissioner *can* go. In this city the library is under the supervision of the department of public affairs. An entirely new board of trustees was appointed and it has few of the powers that rested in the old board. It does not have charge of the library funds and can issue no checks in payment of bills. All work must be approved by the mayor and the trustees must present requisitions for everything. The city does all ordering, including the buying of books. Fortunately this is an extreme case.



The cities are just now closing their first year under the new form of government. The law provides that the proceedings of the council shall be printed each month. These include statements from the commissioners reporting their respective matters of business. In looking over the proceedings little mention was found concerning the library beyond the appointment of the board of trustees. In some cities the old board was dismissed and an entirely new one appointed. In other cities one or more of the old trustees were reappointed. Women were represented on boards as formerly. Three years from now when new councils are elected affairs may be differently arranged and the degree to which the commissioner will delegate his power to the trustees will always depend upon the individual commissioner and the efficiency of the library board.

The majority of the proceedings include in the report of the commissioner of accounts and finances a statement showing receipts, disbursements and balance of the library fund for each month. The tax levy itself is not affected by commission government. Some libraries report that their appropriation has been materially decreased under operation of the Juul law and one reports an increase. The Juul law should not affect the library tax, as a two mill tax on an assessment one-fifth of real value is exactly the same as a one and two-tenths mill tax on one-third real value. Either property was formerly assessed too high or the new assessment is too low in cities where the library appropriation has decreased \$1500 by the Juul law.

The spring election in Illinois resulted in no new city adopting the commission form of government. Aurora voted on the question but it failed to pass. The explanation seems to be that this was not the year for election of municipal officers in the majority of cities, and the people were loath to interrupt the term of the present council. Next year there will be many city elections, and there is no reason to doubt but that a number of

towns will adopt the commission form.

In anticipation of this fact it would be wise if our librarians and those who are most interested in the prosperity and development of our libraries might be prepared at the convening of the General assembly in January with bills or amendments that shall look to a more permanent policy for libraries in cities operating under commission form of government.

An amendment might be made similar to that relating to the board of fire and police commissioners (sec. 26). The commission form was amended to provide for all commission cities which had appointed or might hereafter appoint such a board of fire and police commissioners under the act of 1903, that the said act would take precedence over the commission law and that the members of the board should be appointed and discharged according to the 1903 law. The present general library law might be made to continue in force in commission cities in just the same way.

Another plan would be to put the library on the same basis as the school. The school boards are elected quite independently of the commission. This is also true of the board of local improvements under the Act of 1897 (sec. 23).

To unite schools, libraries, museums and all educational forces under one general educational board is theoretically a very good idea, but as yet is not precisely in favor with librarians.

### An Occasion Befitting the Situation

A brilliant affair was the banquet given in honor of William F. Yust, retiring librarian of the Louisville free public library and his wife by a large number of citizens of Louisville.

The object of the feast as stated was:

To honor whom honor is due—  
To emphasize the value of our library—  
To develop a wholesome public spirit—  
To say Godspeed and goodbye.

Seldom has a purely social occasion brought forth such sound library doctrine, such wise discussion of library administration as was occasioned at the

banquet, as indeed few occasions in library development were so momentous in the affairs of an institution as was the case in Louisville.

To quote a local paper:

"Of striking significance was the warning sounded by speaker after speaker that we face a crisis in library affairs, precipitated by a deliberate effort on the part of politicians to break down the merit system, and exploit the institution as a field for patronage."

Two principles were emphasized, first the right of the librarian to choose his staff; second, the merit system of appointment and promotion.

In commenting on these two principles, the paper quoted says:

In these two principles the idea of efficiency is comprehended. The first implies the selection of a librarian possessing character, ability and training of the kind to invite and deserve the confidence of the trustees and the public. Surely, it need not be said that only such a man—or woman—is to be considered for a position of this kind. If the librarian is not capable of choosing his staff, he is not capable of directing it. No manager of a big business institution would allow himself to be overruled by his board of directors in the selection of his subordinates, and no business could be successfully conducted on such a basis.

The merit system of appointment and promotion is the logical corollary of the first principle. The two go together.

### Sowing Library Seed

An interesting little note concerning the establishment of a public library at Laurel, Maryland, shows the manner of seed-sowing in many towns, which as corporations, do not appreciate the public library as an integral part of public education.

A citizen, Mr Knowlton, took the leadership and induced the people of Laurel to contribute books, a number paying one dollar a year for membership and many giving generously of time and work to the organization. The library started with a card catalog, charging system and accession record. The good work has gone on with interest even with unpaid service and bids fair to be a permanent institution.

The use of the library is free to all and an increasing number of children and young people avail themselves of the privilege. It is an encouraging situation in a state not given to village libraries.

### Magazines for Small Libraries

Good magazines are a great help in providing interesting reading for the small library. Of course all should be ordered from one agent at club rates. The choicest are undoubtedly the following: *Atlantic*, *Century*, *Harper*, *Scribner*; but the best of the 15c magazines furnish excellent reading, are wholesome, and assist in suiting the different tastes in different communities. The most desirable are probably the following considering the periodicals which contain stories: *American*, *Everybody's*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *McClure*, *Munsey*, *Woman's Home Companion*. Besides these we have for the children at varying prices *The American Boy*, *St. Nicholas*, and *Youth's Companion*.

The magazines named all contain articles that are valuable for reference purposes, but if a small library is doing much reference work it will need some other periodicals. The best plan is to subscribe for the *Eclectic* magazine index published by the H. W. Wilson Co., of Minneapolis, and make up the subscription list from among the periodicals covered by this index.

If the reference work requires much about current events add the two weeklies *Literary Digest* and *Worlds Chronicle*, the latter being especially suited to children. The best daily for reference use is the *Christian Science Monitor*. This paper gives as little space as possible to the evil doings, only noting such things as are of such importance that it is necessary to know about them. In this way it has space for its excellent articles of information on valuable subjects that the other dailies are obliged to treat briefly.

For extensive reference work such as is needed by club women and large schools, the library may not be able to

provide all the periodicals that would be serviceable. In this case great assistance can be had from the Cumulative reference library of the H. W. Wilson Co. From this place clippings of valuable articles from the standard periodicals are loaned at low rates. Full information may be acquired by writing to the company.

The Eclectic magazine index recommends certain important government publications besides the periodicals which it lists. These publications are to be secured free from the Representative of the Congressional district in which the library is situated.

With the material recommended here a variety of choice reading, both fiction and general reading, is to be had at reasonable prices and excellent reference work can be done.

Of course, no librarian can really "keep house" without PUBLIC LIBRARIES, which gives this and other valuable information.

ANGE V. MILNER,  
Illinois State normal university.

### The Cameragraph

The statement which appeared in PUBLIC LIBRARIES, May, 1912, regarding the cameragraph recently installed by the John Crerar library has aroused an interest that requires some modification and further explanation.

The recent increase in the requests for books on inter-library loan has been so marked that it seemed advisable of finding some other means of meeting a part of this demand, as well as of serving promptly readers who apply personally at the library for copy of material in books. A photo-duplicating instrument furnishes the most satisfactory copy because the photograph is an absolutely accurate record and can usually be turned out with less expenditure of time. The cameragraph was selected as a satisfactory machine for this purpose because its mechanism is so simple that an experienced operator is not required in order to secure good results. The fact

that the prints are moved mechanically within the machine to the developer and fixing bath makes the success depend almost entirely on a good exposure.

A single print is 12 by 14 inches in size. The object taken can be enlarged or reduced within these dimensions, and may include as many pages as can be exposed at one time within the above limits. Prices at present are tentative, and the library must reserve the right to increase them if experience proves that the cost of operation is not adequately covered. They are as follows: 25 cents for the first print, 10 cents for each additional print.

The first result is of course a negative—black on white. If a positive is desired the work is doubled. It may be found necessary to make special charges for photographing material difficult to handle.

Applicants for prints must allow sufficient time for the work to be conveniently done. The present demand does not warrant operation of the machine more than once or twice a week. The shortest possible time that the finished photograph can be turned over to the reader is likely to be 24 hours after the order is received.

The use of the cameragraph must of necessity be restricted mainly to material not protected by copyright. Some such rule as that followed by the Library of Congress may be adopted, requiring the signed authority of the owner of the copyright to reproduce, and in addition requiring the applicant to assume all responsibility.

It is likely that a circular will later be issued by the library for distribution to those interested.

CHARLES J. BARR.

Console yourself, dear man, and brother; whatever you may be sure of, be sure at least of this, that you are dreadfully like other people. Human nature has a much greater genius for sameness than for originality.—Lowell.

### The Chicago Civics Room

#### Its contents and scope

While the newly established Civics room of the Chicago public library corresponds, in the organization of the materials upon its shelves, to what is generally termed a municipal reference department, its scope is intended to be much broader than to meet the needs of city officials only. More and more, problems of this nature are engaging the careful attention and investigation of citizens' organizations whose opinions influence legislation and administration. The Association of Commerce, representing a strength of 4,000 in its membership, has through its strong ways and means committee, made a number of important investigations and reports; the Commercial club has expended large sums in the initiation of Chicago Beautiful plans; the City club has borne part in some of the important movements affecting municipal expansion; the Woman's club, through its numerous departments, has taken an active part in influencing similar movements; this is true likewise of the Woman's Aid society, the Woman's City club, the Juvenile Protective league, the United Charities, and other organizations. There are more than 20 improvement associations in various sections of the city interested in local questions. Some of the topics under present consideration by some of the organizations referred to are typical of the wide interests affected. These have to do with burial costs, reduction of noise, weekly half-holidays, flower missions, housing conditions, etc.

In the Civics room may be found the nucleus for the study of these and related subjects, the latest and most authoritative material being sought, whether in books or in more ephemeral form. Special self-indexing devices have been utilized to render this material easy of access for consultation and expeditious as to use. University students, and students in special schools dealing with civics, philanthropy and economics in general will be given freedom of use, and special facilities will be offered members

of the city council, school board and other official bodies, in the form of "package libraries" on certain subjects which may be loaned for use elsewhere than in the library for limited but reasonable periods.

Business men will find in the Civics room a mass of material of great interest, in addition to the directories, maps, guides and gazetteers. The latest publications on efficiency in its various phases, and on such subjects as advertising and accounting, are conveniently placed for use, and there may be found also in generous quantities though with some attempt at discrimination, the printed pros and cons and the reports of experience on subjects such as these, for example: Industrial accidents, blacklisting, parcels post, working girls' clubs, private pension systems, industrial arbitration, loan societies, loan sharks, employers' liability, vacant lot gardens, etc.

For those particularly interested in education, including the faculties of Chicago university, Northwestern university and numerous other institutions located here, and for the 6,000 teachers in public schools, the Civics room offers resources in large measure. By means of special lists and indexes, the material usually unavailable because buried between the sombre covers of public documents, may be easily found and abundantly used. The leading pedagogical periodicals on file formerly in the general reading room have been transferred to the Civics room. This is also true of the magazines dealing with the other interests centered in this department, embracing economics, social and political sciences, and municipal affairs.

Much of the material consists of pamphlets, separates from magazines, and important clippings from newspapers representative of the entire country, as well as separates from American, European and Australian documents of special reports, topically arranged, on milk inspection, penny lunches, railroad terminals, subways, garbage disposal, school inspection, city planning, yard sewage, stables and slaughter houses, and

many hundreds of topics kindred in interest and scope.

Other printed sources of interest to city officials and students of municipal conditions, as derived from the messages of mayors and other officials, publications of societies, and pamphlets privately issued, have to do with the making of city budgets, and the many important problems which are incorporated in budgetary studies; civil service regulations, and examinations conducted in connection therewith; municipal art, in co-operation with organizations of architects and other civic bodies; electrification of railroads at terminals; and many other subjects of large import in city administration.

### A Book Making Exposition

At Leipzig, the great center of the book industry in Germany, there will be held from May to October, 1914, an international exposition of book-making and the graphic arts connected therewith, including photography. It will serve to commemorate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Royal Academy for graphic arts and book industry at Leipzig. The exposition will include the following sections: The graphic and book arts; book industrial instruction; the manufacture of paper; photography and reproduction technics; processes of printing, publication and book-binding; library work; educational appliances; machines, apparatus and implements; hygiene in manufactories and workshops; and the protection and welfare of workers.—*Scientific American*, May 11, 1912, p. 415.

The percentage of circulation of fiction depends a little on what is included in that classification. The estimated cost of preparing books for the shelves has been placed as low as fifteen cents per volume and as high as thirty-five cents. I believe this is an important matter, but nothing better than a guess is obtainable.—W. L. BREWSTER.

## Ontario Library Association

### Twelfth annual meeting

Following its usual practice the annual meeting of the Ontario library association was held in Toronto, Easter Monday and Tuesday. The attendance broke all records, being large and representative, and the program was packed full of features of interest and value. The secretary's twelfth annual report showed the best year's work to date; the treasurer's report showed the largest income and expenditure and the reports of the standing committees were generally satisfactory. That of the Library institutes was especially encouraging, as it pointed out that the organization of the province into 14 districts had been completed and 14 institutes had been held. A very large percentage of all the public libraries of the province has been reached by the institutes during the past three years.

The program centered around the librarian and the librarian's problems. Miss B M Dunham, Berlin, gave an interesting account of Ontario's first summer library school, held last June and July, and of which she was the chief instructor. Inspector Nursey presented an admirable summary of the work of the library branch of the Department of education in a paper which was greatly appreciated by the association. The following technical problems were dealt with in 10 minute papers:

- a) Classification of some recent books. Miss Poole, Public library, Toronto.
- b) Classification of public documents, pamphlets and miscellaneous matter. Miss A. O'Meara, London.
- c) Fines and charges for overdue, damaged and lost books. Miss J. S. Reid, Chatham.
- d) Subject headings for card catalog. Miss H. Young, University of Toronto.
- e) Expansion of Dewey decimal system for Canada. Miss W. G. Barnstead, Public library, Toronto.

"The training and status of the librarian" was handled by W. O. Carson,



London, in a paper which was the outgrowth of much careful thought and experiment. The chief librarian of the Toronto public library, Mr Locke, gave an informing and stimulating address on "The method by which a public librarian hears of books, and orders books." The presidential address by L. J. Burpee, "As others see us," brought together many excerpts from travellers' opinions, ancient and modern, about Canada.

The outside speakers were Dr Benjamin Sutte, Ottawa, an authority on early Canadian lore, who gave a most delightful account of "The romance of early Canadian history," and Miss L. E. Stearns, of the Wisconsin free library commission. The addresses by Miss Stearns on "The library militant" and "Library extension" were packed full of wit and wisdom and it may be said simply that Miss Stearns came and saw and conquered the O. L. A.

One interesting feature of the meeting was the announcement that the Minister of education had secured an appropriation from the legislature to assist Ontario libraries in sending a goodly delegation to the A. L. A. meeting at Ottawa. All the papers, addresses, reports and discussions may be found in full in the annual proceedings of the association.

The officers for the year 1912-1913 are:

Officers—Pres., C. R. Charteris, M. D. Public library, Chatham; first vice-pres., W. F. Moore, Public library, Dundas; second vice-pres., W. O. Carson, Public library, London; secy., E. A. Hardy, B. A., 81 Collier St., Toronto; treas., G. H. Locke, M. A., Public library, Toronto.

Councillors—David Williams, Public library, Collingwood; H. J. Clarke, B. A., Public library, Belleville; D. M. Grant, B. A., Public library, Sarnia; W. J. Hamilton, B. A., Public library, Fort William; Edith Sutton, Public library, Smith's Falls; L. J. Burpee, F. R. G. S., ex-pres., International Joint Commission, Ottawa.

E. A. HARDY, Sec'y.

### New England College Librarians Spring meeting

The spring meeting of the New England college librarians was held in the lecture room of Eaton memorial library, Tufts college, Mass., on Friday, May 3, 1912.

There were 39 members present, representing 19 institutions.

The meeting was called to order by Ethel M. Hayes, Tufts college library at 2:30. Dr Louis N. Wilson, of Clark university, suggested that a committee of three be appointed to consider the question of formal organization, and whether the organization should be confined to college librarians. A committee of three was appointed, Dr Koopman, of Brown university, W. C. Lane, of Harvard, and Miss Clark, of Smith.

W. C. Lane proposed that the association merge with the Eastern college librarians. In answer to this Dr Wilson read the records of the Wellesley meeting, showing that the general opinion at that time was not in favor of merging. There was no further discussion.

The first topic discussed was the "Instruction of students in the use of the library." Different methods used at different colleges were presented for discussion. The most satisfactory method was that of requiring groups of four to six freshmen to meet the librarian, who took them over the library and instructed them how to use the card catalogs and indexes and from these to find the books in the stack room. Then a list of questions on the general use of the library was given the students. If these were not satisfactorily answered the work had to be done over. The most effective results were attained when attendance was compulsory, and taken in place of the first recitations in English to count towards a degree. Still more satisfactory results could be obtained if there were better co-operation between the instructors and the librarian.

The next topic considered was "How should book appropriations be allotted among the different departments of the

faculty?" The experience of the majority showed that the most satisfactory way had been to obtain estimates from the heads of departments as to the amount probably needed for the year's work. This would give an idea as to the needs of the different departments, and would form a basis upon which the allotments could be made. It was also pointed out from the experience of one or two that a certain portion should be set aside to provide the library with the more valuable books or sets which every library should have, but which the instructors would not feel that they could purchase out of their allotment. Good results were obtained by tabulating the estimates and comparing them with those of previous years.

"Use of the Library of Congress copy-right catalog" was discussed.

Dr Koopman gave a talk on "Printing from the library point of view," discussing the experiments which have been made at Clark university, Worcester, Mass., on the legibility of different types. This was followed by a general discussion.

Miss Blakeley of Mount Holyoke moved that a committee of five be appointed by the chair to further consider the question of how to instruct students in the use of the library. The committee appointed consists of Miss Blakeley, chairman, Miss Robbins of Simmons college, Mr Lowe, of Williams college, Mr Goodrich, of Dartmouth college, and Mr Jones of the University of Maine.

Mr Lane of Harvard brought up the matter of binding, and the kinds and prices were discussed.

Mr Goodrich of Dartmouth suggested that the matter of reclassification of library books would be a profitable one to come before the association.

A vote of thanks was extended to Miss Hayes for her cordial reception of the members of the association.

It was the general opinion that the meeting had been a helpful one and was quite worth the effort of those present to attend.

### Information Concerning A. L. A. Meeting, 1912

A special rate on certificate plan for the meeting at Ottawa has been granted to cover Eastern Canadian and United States points east of Buffalo, Pittsburgh and north of the Potomac river. From other points in the United States the regular summer excursion tickets will be found the most advantageous to purchase. For those who intend to take the post-conference trip the certificate plan tickets will not be satisfactory as such tickets require a return to Ottawa for the start home, whereas the post-conference party will want to return home from Montreal.

Persons from the west intending to take the post-conference trip should purchase round-trip summer tourists tickets to Montreal and return, which tickets if by the Canadian Pacific railway, will permit passengers to go by the way of Ottawa with a ten days' stopover for the conference, or if by the Grand Trunk railway system, will allow a free trip from Coteau Junction to Ottawa and return with a stop-over at Ottawa for the convention.

If intending to go on the certificate plan notify the local railroad agents early so that they can have certificates on hand.

Three special parties will go to Ottawa, one from New England, leaving Boston, with F. W. Faxon, 83 Francis St., in charge; one from the Middle-Atlantic states, leaving New York, with C. H. Brown, of the Brooklyn public library, in charge; and the Chicago party, including the Middle-West, with J. F. Phelan, Chicago public library, in charge. Pullman reservations should be made promptly with the manager in charge of the particular territory of the travelers.

#### Cost of tickets

The round trip summer excursion rates will be in effect from: Boston, \$20.15; New York, \$18.30; Albany, \$15.30.

An excursion rate of \$20 from Chicago will be in effect. Proportionate rates are available from points west of

Chicago, and will be much cheaper than any certificate plan rate granted.

The rate from: St. Louis, \$26.80; Omaha, \$35.00; Minneapolis, \$36.00; Cincinnati, \$23.70; Louisville, \$25.70; Cleveland, \$21.45; Pittsburgh, \$29.70; New Orleans, \$53.75; Denver, \$60.00; Los Angeles, \$108.50; Portland, \$105.00; Seattle, \$105.00.

#### Post conference trip

Those desiring to take the post-conference trip should get tickets with Montreal as destination, and with stop-over privileges at Ottawa.

The post-conference trip will consist of a six days' trip on the St. Lawrence and Saguenay rivers, beginning at Montreal on July 3 and ending at the same place the morning of July 9. The entire cost of the trip will not exceed \$38.50, including the stay in Montreal. The steamer Saguenay has been chartered and has a capacity of 230, two in a room. Those who intend to take the post-conference trip should make application direct to Thomas Henry, traffic manager, Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company, with a deposit of \$5 to secure a reservation. Choice of room-mate, if any, should be stated when applying, because it is not practicable to allot a whole room to any one person. Applications will be booked in order of receipt.

The headquarters at Ottawa will be at the new Chateau Laurier. As a special favor the hotel will be conducted on the American plan for the conference.\*

Applications for room should be made direct to F. W. Bergman, manager, Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, Canada. Reservations will be considered in order of receipt and accommodations requested will be assigned until there shall be no more at price and kind desired. Those who apply for reservation at the Chateau Laurier after the supply is exhausted will be assigned rooms of as nearly the same quality at the New Russell hotel, nearly across the street. State definitely

what is wanted when writing for rooms. New Russell hotel and Grand Union hotel are good hotels with lower rates.

The program at this time has not been worked out in detail. The following are to be found in the schedule: Wednesday afternoon, June 26—Meeting of Executive board.

Thursday morning—First general session; afternoon—Council—American Association of Law libraries; evening—National association of state libraries—Agricultural libraries section—Catalog section—American Library institute.

Friday morning—Second general session; the afternoon and evening will be given up to meetings of various affiliated bodies and sections.

Saturday morning—The third general session; afternoon—drive to Experimental Farm and lunch, guests of the Dominion Government; evening—meetings of various sections.

Sunday evening—Library school dinners.

Monday morning—fourth general session; evening—fifth general session.

Tuesday morning—various sessions; afternoon—sixth general session.

Among the speakers announced, are Dr Herbert Putnam, librarian of Congress; Walter L. Brown, librarian, Buffalo, N. Y.; Geo. H. Locke, librarian, Toronto; Chalmers Hadley, librarian, Denver; Adam Strohm, assistant-librarian, Detroit; Tessa L. Kelso, New York; W. H. Hatton, Wisconsin library commission; Mary E. Hazeltine, Wisconsin library school; Chas. E. McLanagan, librarian, Milwaukee; Carl B. Roden, assistant librarian, Chicago.

Distinguished speakers, outside of A. L. A., include: Hon. George E. Foster, Canadian minister of commerce; James W. Robertson, C. M. G., of the Commission of conservation; Prof. Andrew Macphail, McGill university; Dr Geo. E. Vincent, president, University of Minnesota.

Special meetings will be held by the Associations of law libraries, of state libraries, of special libraries, Bibliographic

\*The A. L. A. Bulletin for May, issued from A. L. A. headquarters, Chicago, gives full particulars of all hotels.

society of America and the League of library commissions.

Specially prepared programs will be offered by the following sections of the A. L. A.: College and reference section; children's librarians, professional training and the catalog section.

The full program in detail will be found in the *A. L. A. Bulletin* for May.

### National Association of State Libraries

The fifteenth annual meeting will be held at Ottawa, June 26 to July 2, inclusive. The following program has been arranged for its first session on the evening of Thursday, June 27:

Address of welcome—Hon. Alfred D. De Celles, Library of Parliament, Ottawa.

Some suggestions relating to co-operation between Legislative reference departments—George S. Godard, State librarian of Connecticut.

Trials and tribulations of a document librarian—William R. Reinick, Department of public documents, Free library of Philadelphia.

Indexing and care of pamphlets in a state library—Herbert O. Brigham, State librarian of Rhode Island.

Business.

In addition, the association will hold a joint meeting with the American association of law libraries and the Special libraries' association, at which the National association of state libraries will make the following contribution:

"Bill drafting," by James McKirdy, assistant director, Legislative reference bureau, Harrisburg, Pa.

"Snags, stumbling blocks and pitfalls among the session laws," by Charles J. Babbitt, assistant, State library of Massachusetts.

A paper by John H. Arnold, librarian, Harvard law school, Cambridge, Mass. Subject to be announced later.

There will also be a joint session with the Bibliographical society of America, at which time the subject of Legal bibliography will be discussed.

At a series of informal round-table

conferences, the National association of state libraries will hear reports from the following committees:

Co-operation between Legislative reference departments. John A. Lapp, chairman.

Exchange and distribution of State documents. Herbert O. Brigham, chairman.

Legislative reference service. George S. Godard, chairman.

Public archives. Thomas L. Montgomery, chairman.

Publication of a municipal Year-book. James L. Gillis, chairman.

Systematic bibliography of state official literature. William R. Reinick, chairman.

Uniformity in preparation and publication of session-laws. Clarence B. Lester, chairman.

### American Library Institute

There will be at least one and perhaps two meetings of the A. L. I. at Ottawa. The first meeting will be held on Thursday.

The cost of library administration will be the topic for discussion and the presentation will be made by Hiller C. Wellman, City library, Springfield, Massachusetts, and Dr Arthur E. Bostwick of the St. Louis public library.

MARY EILEEN AHERN, Secretary.

### Illinois Library Meeting

A spring meeting of the Illinois library trustees' association is being planned for the last of May or early in June when such subjects as follow will be discussed: "Revenue," "Relation of library boards with cities," "Care and use of buildings." Any suggestions for topics for discussion will be gladly received by Eugenia Allin, Secretary, Decatur, Ill.

The district meeting will probably be in the north part of the state though the exact place has not been decided upon. Librarians are asked to impress upon their boards the importance of attendance at such meetings.

### National Education Association— Library Section

Chicago, Ill., July 6-12, 1912

Meetings to be held at Chicago public library.

The Library section meetings comprise two morning sessions held Monday, July 8, and Thursday, July 11, and a round table to be held Friday afternoon, July 12. Mr Legler of Chicago public library will address the Monday morning session on "Affiliation of library and school." The representative of the American library association, Dr Bostwick, St. Louis public library, will deliver an address at one of the general evening sessions, and at the Thursday morning meeting. A paper on, "The book 'Teacher' says is good" will be presented by Mary Ely, school-librarian, of Dayton, Ohio.

The round table will meet Friday afternoon. Such topics as "Courses in children's literature," "Cultural and inspirational reading for high school pupils," "Instruction in use of books and libraries," "Debate work," "Use of newspapers and periodicals," "Care of such material as Farmer's bulletins, pictures, clippings, postal card collections, lantern slides, etc.," "How the library can aid in the choice of a vocation" will be discussed. An exhibit of material interesting to both teachers and librarians is being arranged. Important committee reports will be read. Miss J. A. Hopkins will give an account of the new course in library methods for teachers to be offered at Pratt institute next year.

### An Invitation to St. Louis

The Missouri library association will hold a joint meeting with the Illinois library association in St. Louis, next October, probably on the 24-26. Several neighboring associations were invited to join in this meeting but no others found it possible to do so. They have expressed their interest, however, and most of them expect to send one or more delegates. May we now, through you, ex-

tend a general invitation to librarians to attend this meeting? The new Central building of the St. Louis public library, where most of the sessions will be held, is alone worth the trip, and the members of the profession in St. Louis will be especially glad to see the meeting a large one. Any inquiries will be cheerfully answered.

PAUL BLACKWELDER,  
Pres. M. L. A.

### Library Meetings

**Chicago**—The Chicago library club held its last meeting of the year on the evening of May 9.

After dinner at the City club, the meeting was held at the Fuller Park field house. There was a brief business meeting with reports and election of officers. Mr Brown, in charge of the field house, told of their fine new building and something of the scope and aim of the magnificent work being done there. The club then adjourned to the hall where it was entertained by a play, "The library players in wash; or, Many are called but few are chosen. A native folk play in two acts, by one of the natives," namely Mr Roden, of the Chicago public library. All the actors were members of the club. Dancing closed a most delightful evening and we had only to regret the absence of our president, who is still ill.

The officers elected for the coming year are, Geo. B. Utley, president; Louise B. Krause, first vice-president; J. F. Phelan, second vice-president; Helen Hutchinson, secretary, and Pearl I. Field, treasurer.

HARRIE EDNA BROOKE, Secretary.

**New York**—The April meeting of the Long Island library club was held in the Bedford branch of the Brooklyn public library, April 18. Resolutions of congratulation on the promotion of Herbert W. Fison to the position of librarian of the public library of Malden, Mass., and expressions of regret of the necessity of his withdrawal from the Long Island library club, of which he had been president, and for many years an active member, were adopted.



The meeting was devoted to the promotion of acquaintance among members of the club. A short program of readings was highly enjoyed with the following taking part in the proceedings: Miss Hewins of Hartford; Mr Welsh of New York City; Mrs Barry and Miss Hitchler of Brooklyn.

ROBERT L. SMITH,  
Secretary.

### Coming Meetings California

The annual meeting of the State library association will be held at Lake Tahoe, June 17-22, jointly with the County librarians' association. Special railroad and hotel rates will be given. Stopover privileges allowed delegates to A. L. A.

### Illinois and Missouri

The annual meeting of the Illinois library association will be held in St. Louis in a joint session with the Missouri library association in the new building of the St. Louis public library. The date has been set for the fourth week in October, probably 24-26. The program announcement will be sent out later.

### New York

The second announcement is made of the meeting of the New York library association at Niagara Falls during the week of September 23. The meetings will be held at the International Hotel, where a special rate will be made during the week. Other places can be secured at lower rates.

From New York City, for a party of 100 or more persons traveling together in a special train in both directions, returning within 10 days, the rate will be \$11.70 the round trip. The rate for 10 or more persons traveling together on regular trains is \$7.85 in each direction, regular one way fare is \$8.00.

If the party consists of not less than 100 persons, a special train will be run, leaving New York on the going trip, Niagara Falls on the return trip, at a time most convenient to the party, making the run in about 11 hours.

THERESA HITCHLER,  
Chairman Publicity committee.

### Interesting Things in Print

Rachel W. Haight, Drexel '11, is the compiler of the "Index to fairy tales" now appearing in the "Bulletin of bibliography."

Bulletin 55 of the Riverside (Cal.) public library is issued as a reading list on "Patriotism." Special mention is made of Memorial day, Flag day and Fourth of July.

Dr G. E. Wire, librarian of Worcester county law library, has prepared and published a little pamphlet entitled "A small binding plant in the building." Dr Wire points out the necessary equipment for such a plant, most convenient arrangement of same and the advantages to be derived from it.

The May number of the *Library Assistant* contains a paper read by Dr G. K. Fortescue, keeper of the printed books of the British Museum, on the "Library of the British Museum." The article is quite comprehensive, being an historical, descriptive narrative, but at the same time it is most readable, and will be particularly interesting to those unacquainted with this noted institution.

The library of Jacksonville, Fla., has issued a combination hand-book and report in which there is given not only information with regard to the work of the library but also an exposition of its opportunities intended for the public. An application card and information blank are included in the handbook and these may be detached and sent to the library if desired.

This library has discontinued the issuance of its *Bulletin* and instead will distribute slips, monthly, containing an annotated list of new books at the library, reprinted from newspaper type, which saves the library considerable for composition.

The Michigan state library has issued a pamphlet of some 200 pages of bibliographical sketches of American artists. A classified list of names under painters, sculptors, illustrators, etchers, miniature painters, mural and stained glass designers and members of the Legion of Honor

is included. There are 10 portraits of prominent artists beginning with Alexander and closing with Whistler. As a handy tool for immediate reference use, the work is sure to prove exceedingly valuable.

Two important recent issues by the Library of Congress are "Select list of references on parcels post," and also "Select list of references on employers' liability and workmen's compensation." Each of these is compiled under the direction of the chief bibliographer, Hermann Henry Bernard Meyer. The former list has been made up chiefly of references to material on the parcels post question in the United States, but it includes descriptions and discussions of the parcels post in the more important European countries. It will enable an investigator to study the situation in this country and to draw lessons from the experience of other countries. Debaters will find in the index under the heading United States the arguments in favor and those opposed, separately enumerated.

The list comprises over 200 titles including articles in the United States consular reports, 1898-1911; and articles in periodicals, 1859-1911; author and subject index in separate alphabets.

We learn from the preface that since the publication in 1906-8 of reports on the subject of employers' liability and workmen's compensation, the literature of the subject has grown to very large proportions. The present list though based on recent literature retains from the earlier reports, such titles as are still pertinent. The list, so far as it covers the United States, relates chiefly to the compensation for workmen for injuries received in industrial accidents and the liability of employers for the same. Whereas, in the literature relating to foreign countries, this subject is frequently found to be so interwoven with other forms of social insurance—such as insurance against unemployment, sickness and old age—that the scope of the sections devoted to foreign countries had to be sensibly widened. The subject index brings out all such references. The list

is preceded by a bibliography of the subject (31p). The book lists are arranged by countries, and the whole 1,143 entries are brought together by an author and subject index.

### Manual of Library Economy

The A. L. A. Publishing Board has issued a number of pamphlets in the last year, which are to form chapters in a volume to be issued later under the title, "Manual of library economy."

"American library history" by C. K. Bolton will form Chapter 1, and touches upon a very few of the multitude of important facts that go to make up the warp and woof of American library history. One may conclude from the reading that the public library developed along the Atlantic coast, but that it just happened, like Topsy, elsewhere in the country.

"The Library of Congress" by William Warner Bishop, Chapter 2, is an outline of the conduct of the varied activities of that library. The meagerness of material is perhaps excusable in view of the fact that Dr W. D. Johnston has under preparation a history of the library and that the most excellent reports of the librarian issued annually, make unnecessary a more extended treatment of this valuable subject.

"Ethics of the college and university library" is set forth by J. I. Wyer, Jr., of the New York state library as Chapter 4. That it is directory is to be expected from the well-known characteristics of the writer. His experience as a successful college librarian gives him more latitude, perhaps, than another and the college or university librarian will find on the forthcoming pages of this manual definite instruction concerning many vexing questions.

"Order and accession department" is treated by Frank F. Hopper, librarian of Tacoma (Wash.) public library in what is to be Chapter 17 of the manual. Here again the didactic spirit pervades the 29 pages dealing with the order and accession department. "The net price system" seems to be especially favored in

that the bibliography on the subject is confined almost entirely to arguments in favor of the 'iniquitous system. Perhaps it is a one-sided question.

"The shelf department" by Josephine A. Rathbone will form Chapter 20. The library-school mark is plainly visible in the treatment of this topic. "Some still prevailing practices" are so few in number that "some" is rather a large term to apply to them. It would seem that too much is taken for granted as to the familiarity of those who will need to use the manual, with certain terms used by the writer.

"The reference department" by Dr E. C. Richardson of Princeton university is clear-cut in its definitions of the work of the reference department and leaves little confusion in the minds of the readers as to the essential points that go to make up a good reference department. This forms Chapter 22.

"Branch libraries and other distributing agencies" by Linda A. Eastman, forms Chapter 15. It is a plain and comprehensive presentation of distributing stations of city libraries and names 23 points to be considered in the establishing of the same.

One of the best is Chapter 26 on "Book-binding" by Arthur L. Bailey. Here each paragraph is a sensible discussion of a definite point in book-binding. This is a subject on which there is probably the greatest amount of haziness as to just what ought to be known and what is worth knowing on the part of the ordinary library of anything that comes across its pathway. And this despite the fact that much has been written and said on the subject and the problem is as old as the book.

Judged by what has appeared of the manual, it will be a work well-done, but adding little to what has already been done, and well-done also, by Dana, Bostwick, library commissions and current literature in this country, and by Brown, Stephens and the Library Association in England.

The P. B. keeps busy—that's something.

### Valuable Documents

In response to an inquiry, a letter has been received from Chairman F. A. Cleveland of the President's commission on economy and efficiency, stating that 14 reports of the commission have been transmitted to Congress and have been printed. Those who desire to obtain these documents may do so by application to their local congressman or senator, the Commission having only a few copies for its own use.

The subjects are covered in the following documents of the sixty-second Congress, second session:

House Document No. 458:

Outlines of organization of the government of the United States as it existed July 1, 1911.

Senate Document No. 293:

Centralization of the distribution of government publications.

Use of window envelopes in the government service.

Use of a photographic process for copying printed and written documents, maps, drawings, etc.

House Document No. 670:

Methods of appointment.

Consolidation of Bureau of lighthouses, department of commerce and labor, and Life-saving service, department of the treasury.

Revenue-cutter service of the department of the treasury.

Consolidation of the six auditors' offices, department of the treasury, into one office.

Returns office of the department of the interior.

Travel expenditures.

Memorandum of conclusions concerning the principles that should govern in the matter of handling and filing of correspondence, etc.

Supplemental report on centralization of the distribution of Government publications.

The use of the outlines of organization of the United States government as a means for showing currently the organization of the government.

House Document No. 732:

Retirement-allowances.

Libraries can help in "the efficiency movement" by calling attention to such reports as these. A request for them sent to a congressman may help in the movement in several ways.

### The Newberry Library

In the 20th annual report (1911) of the Newberry library, Chicago, the librarian, W. N. Carlton, presents a record of unusual interest to the student and bibliophile.

Over 75,000 readers used 107,079v. during the year. This is a marked increase in number of both readers and of books supplied. The report of a reference library is especially instructive and interesting to librarians of other institutions since such a library ministers primarily to the student, and in its administration as well as in its policy in book purchase, it must represent the high water mark of efficiency for student needs. The policy of the committee on books has been "to maintain the strength of the library in those subjects in which it already has strong and valuable collections, and to fill up and strengthen the collections on subjects incompletely or insufficiently represented." The volumes selected in pursuance of the first object numbered 2,160; those chosen to fulfil the second numbered 2,355. The subject-matter of the more extensive special lists recommended follows: "Bibliography and the history of printing; foreign, historical and literary biography; theory and development of modern historical science; history of South America; India; Egyptology; regimental histories of the Spanish-American war; English literary criticism; English drama; classical English translations of Greek and Roman writers; recent publications on European history and literature. The selections made from newly published books represented every subject proper to the scope of the library."

Special attention is called to the gift of Mr Edward E. Ayer of his collection of Americana. The value of this collection recognized by experts in Chicago and throughout the country, places the Newberry library in the first rank of institutions where America's history may be studied from its sources. Another important gift was that of Mr Charles G. Dawes of the collection of 800v. relating to the American civil war.

The present unhappy situation in China which threatens universal destruction to books, renders especially valuable another acquisition, in itself sufficiently noteworthy. This acquisition is a complete set of the Buddhist scriptures, the so-called Tripitaka. This great oriental religious classic was printed in 1738 and numbers 7,920v. To quote again from the report, "It represents the entire series of sacred books taken from India to China and there translated, together with the original works of native Chinese priests, with a full complement of commentaries and indexes. It forms the source and groundwork of the world's knowledge of the Buddhist religion in China and Japan. The Kanjur, its Tibetan counterpart, was already in the library."

A very interesting selected list of purchases during 1911 is given. Note is made of the Hoe sale, and incidentally of the advantageous results of co-operative buying through a special agent as follows: "Our bids on the books desired were carefully studied and decided upon before the sale, and a plan of action to meet changing conditions during its progress was adopted and followed. As is well known, the Hoe books fetched prices far in excess of what was generally expected, and, in the judgment of the librarian, far in excess of what the library would have been justified in paying. We acquired less than a dozen books out of the three hundred which the committee had approved. During the summer, however, a representative of the library secured in England good copies of a considerable number of these items at prices under or just about equal to our bids in the Hoe sale." What Mr. Carlton here says on the policy of the institutional library competing with the private collector for high priced books in luxurious and artistic bindings, may equally apply in principle to the humbler library buyer in estimating the claims of the many illustrated art books and books of travel, which after proof of their worth is established may be had later at almost half the original prices.

"Libraries," says Mr Carlton, "can

always wait, since they live on indefinitely; private collectors must in course of time pass away—and sometimes, if they are wise, they leave their books to libraries. An institutional library is primarily concerned with the textual contents of a book, and its importance as a depository of information, thought, or expression, which is known to be worthy of permanent human interest or study.

Of special interest to the bibliographer and cataloger will be the pages on statistics and "Definitions and rules for compiling books and statistics" in which the distinguishing marks of volume, pamphlet, number and part are enumerated, so that one may know "when a volume is not a volume."

During the year this library has made a number of inter-library loans, collaborated in publication with the Chicago public library and John Crerar library, and has held a number of special exhibitions. One of the most notable was that of the Chinese, Japanese and Tibetan books, manuscripts, and engravings.

In his report upon collections in American libraries relating to European history, Dr E. C. Richardson of Princeton, states that it is found that the Newberry library stands eighth on the list, with 481 titles. Harvard, Library of Congress, New York public library, Columbia, Cornell, Yale and the Boston public library, all of them foundations of many times the age of Newberry, being the only ones that possess more.

#### **An Old Building Made New.**

After eight months' work in temporary quarters the Withers public library of Bloomington, Ill., reopened its doors to the public on Saturday, May 11. The librarian, Miss Parhams, writes of it:

"The building, erected before the days of 'library architecture,' has been remodeled on the most approved plans and refurnished throughout with the latest and best Library Bureau material. The first floor is given up to the stacks, circulating department, open shelf room, librarian's office, cataloging room, children's room, document rooms and a general

committee room open to club workers or any organization of the town doing civic or educational work. The second floor, which had long been occupied by the Bloomington club, is now given up to general reading and reference rooms, a magazine room, special study room, staff room, board room, and an art room, the latter made possible by a gift of \$5,000 left some years ago by Mrs N. P. Perry to the 'Library Association.' At present the furnishings of the art annex are limited to the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. This part will be used also for a lecture room, exhibits, etc.

"The remodeled building bears no resemblance to a Greek temple, unfortunately is not classical in outline, looks not at all like the regulation Carnegie product, but it is easy of supervision, convenient and homelike. There is an abundance of natural and artificial light in every room and the walls are particularly artistic and beautiful. There are no wall 'decorations' but the walls on the lower floor are in soft shades of green, those of the second floor in yellow and browns—all mottled and with the Tiffany finish.

"On Friday evening, May 10, the library board and the staff were at home to the city council and the heads of all of the city departments. Saturday was open day to the public. The citizens feel that they have reason to be proud of their library and the library board and staff feel that their increased room and conveniences should materially increase the library's efficiency."

#### **Printed Cards**

In connection with re-cataloging and re-classification of the library of the University of Chicago, a plan is proposed of printing on cards a considerable number of titles for which no printed cards can be obtained from the Library of Congress or the John Crerar library. Inquiries relating to this matter will be answered promptly and those interested are requested to write to Director of libraries, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.



### Library Schools

#### Carnegie library of Atlanta

The visiting lecturer during April was Duncan Burnet of the University of Georgia library, who gave a talk on the "Administration of a college library," stressing particularly those points which differ from public library work.

In an informal talk after the lecture Mr Burnet gave an account of the very interesting collection of books in his library, which was established in the latter part of the eighteenth century. Part of the collection is comprised of very rare southern periodicals and newspapers, many original works of American travel, and several incunabula.

DELIA FOREACRE SNEED,  
Principal.

#### Carnegie library of Pittsburgh

##### Training school for children's librarians

The senior course in social conditions is now being given. One morning each week is spent in visiting some civic or social institution. Thus far visits have been made to the Kingsley House settlement, the Irene Kaufman settlement and to the Franklin school, where a daily penny lunch is served to the pupils.

Mr. A. Zelenko, of Moscow, Russia, special correspondent of the Moscow newspapers and the educational journals of Brussels, Paris and Berlin, gave an interesting talk to the class on April 15 on "Illustrated books for little children."

Josephine Adams Rathbone, vice-director of the School of library science, Pratt institute, gave two lectures on May 11 on "Home-made reference tools" and "Improving the quality of fiction reading."

Caroline Burnite, director of children's work, Cleveland public library, gave four lectures on May 27-28, two on "Books for little children" and two on "The work of the children's department, Cleveland public library."

#### Drexel institute

In the last examination, one task set was to write a paper on certain features of modern library development, the

paper being supposedly one to be delivered before people interested in library matters, though not librarians.

Incidentally a title had to be assigned to the paper, and it was rather interesting to see the "striking titles" evolved on the spur of the moment—and that an examination moment, for instance, "Increased efficiency in library work," "The library age," "The live library of today," "To the greatest number."

With the "finals" behind them the class started on their two weeks of field work with light hearts, and again they proved that this feature of the course is of inestimable value, thanks to the opportunities afforded them by the programs carefully planned by the co-operating libraries. The school feels increasingly a debt of gratitude to those who make it possible, as well as to all the kindly hosts who make the annual library visit so valuable.

The visit followed directly upon the practice period, and four days were crowded full of experiences, beginning with a visit to Newark, and ending with an afternoon at Columbia university.

Wednesday was devoted to the New York public library, and Tuesday to Brooklyn, with a morning at the public library and an afternoon at Pratt institute.

The class was greatly interested in their visits to the other library schools. On Monday afternoon they enjoyed the hospitality of the library school of the New York public library, after a lecture given to the schools jointly, by Miss Miriam Carey, and on the next day they renewed acquaintance with the Pratt class, and at the same time took advantage of Miss Rathbone's invitation to attend Miss Plummer's lecture.

Commencement exercises will be held on Thursday, June 6, when certificates will be granted to:

Beatrice Mary Abbott, Elizabeth Josephine Amory, Susie Edith Black, Anna Washington Detweiler, Margaret Farr, Mary Victorine Freeman, Ernestine M. Heslop, Marie Alma Josenhans, Mary Helen Pooley, Rebecca Eloise Ritchie, Margaret Anne Ryan, Helen R. Shoemaker, Izette Taber, Elizabeth Bevan Tough, Estelle Wolf.

The one event of the year which will cause regret to the graduates and friends of the school is the resignation of Miss Julia Hopkins from the staff. Miss Hopkins will next year assume charge of the normal course to be offered by the Pratt institute library school, and she will carry with her the most cordial good wishes of those who have been associated with her at Drexel, for a success as pronounced in her new work as she has achieved here.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY,  
Director.

#### University of Illinois

Miss Lyman, of Oak Park, gave the instruction in library work with children during the five weeks beginning April 1, the seniors meeting her daily and the juniors twice a week during this period. She also gave three public lectures on "Good reading for children under 10."

W. N. C. Carlton, librarian of Newberry library, Chicago, gave two lectures before the school, March 29, on "The administration of the Newberry library" and "The work and collections of the Newberry library."

Alice S. Tyler, of the Iowa library commission, spent May 6 and 7 in Urbana and lectured to the school on "The Iowa library commission," "Problems of a small library," and "Rural library extension."

Louise B. Krause, librarian of the H. M. Byllesby Co., of Chicago, engineers, gave two lectures May 10 on "The contribution of library science to business efficiency."

#### Alumni news

Myrtle E. Knepper, '09, is an assistant in the U. S. Department of Agriculture library.

Ida Lange, B. L. S., '10, has resigned her position with the Iowa library commission and will be married shortly.

Ione Armstrong, '11, will be instructor in the 1912 University of Illinois Summer library school.

#### New York public library

In May the school welcomed as lecturers Dr Herbert Putnam, on "The

national library," and Mr Wilberforce Eames on "Early printed books" and on "Manuscripts in libraries," and expects the pleasure of hearing Miss Miriam Carey on "Possibilities of library work in state institutions," Mr Cedric Chivers, on "The history of book-binding," Miss Lucille Goldthwaite on "Work for the blind in libraries," and Miss Mary E. Hall on "The high school library." Visits are scheduled to adjacent libraries.

On the occasion of Miss Carey's lecture, the school will have the pleasure of receiving the students and faculties of the Pratt and Drexel institute schools, making a joint audience of some 65 or 70 persons, who will meet the lecturer afterward. The following day, the principal will give the third lecture of her course on "The history of libraries" at Pratt institute, before the Pratt and Drexel schools.

The courses for the second year have been worked out in administration, advanced reference, cataloging, and work for children. By taking unpaid practice for 15 hours per week, it will be easily possible for a student, to carry two courses. Students holding paid positions will not have time for more than one course.

A thesis will be required for the diploma of those taking the courses in administration and in work for children, and a bibliography of those taking the course in advanced reference work and cataloging.

Inquiries have been received and several applications from graduates of accredited schools, who will be accepted on recommendation from their schools.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Principal.

#### New York state library

The following visiting librarians have recently lectured before the school:

Dr Clement W. Andrews, librarian of the John Crerar library, gave two lectures (April 23-24) on the organization of reference libraries and specifically on the organization of the John Crerar li-

brary. The lectures showed a scholarly care in selection and arrangement of material not always characteristic of library school lectures and through their combination of general principle and specific application were a distinct addition to the course in advanced administration as well as of direct value in the courses on reference work.

Elwood H. McClelland, technology librarian of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh gave three lectures (April 29-30) on technological literature and the work of a technological reference department. Mr McClelland did not confine himself to describing the detailed work of his own library but discussed the necessary principles to be observed in selecting books on technology and mentioned specifically examples of useful trade literature and reference books not listed in the ordinary lists of reference books.

Dr Herbert Putnam, librarian of Congress gave two informal lectures (May 7) on the Library of Congress and its organization, and the general ways in which its work as a national library resembles and differs from the work of large local libraries. Dr Putnam made most appreciative mention of the work of his predecessor, Dr Spofford, and urged the students to imitate as far as changed conditions permit, the intimate personal service which made the real "old-time librarian" a friend of readers as well as a keeper of books; to exercise an intelligent conservatism toward the new in library activities; and to aim at real public service rather than merely to fill the immediate public demand for novelty, or to assume functions which do not properly belong to the library.

Sara E. Stevens, '13, has been obliged to leave school on account of illness and will be unable to resume school work this year.

The New York State Library School association, (the alumni association of the school) is collecting examples of the work of the students in bibliographic and other library lines to serve as a basis for

an exhibition of the past work and influence of the school at the formal dedication of the new state educational building next October. Several of the students have already sent copies of library publications, library plans, etc., in reply to a circular sent out by the president of the association, W. M. Hepburn, Purdue university, Lafayette, Ind. Mr Hepburn is anxious to receive from all permanent class officers, copies of class letters, address lists and any other information concerning the members of their respective classes.

#### Pratt institute

The work of the spring term now being carried on consists largely of practical work in the several departments of the library. Four of the students are enjoying the opportunity of practice work in the Newark public library. One afternoon a week is spent in visiting libraries, book stores, and other points of interest in New York and vicinity. On May 10, the class visited the Bureau of Municipal Research and had a stimulating talk from W. H. Allen, the director, on the relations of the public library to the city government.

Four new courses of instruction are offered this term; an elective course in Italian for catalogers, given by Miss Woodruff, to which only students well up in Latin and French are admitted; a course in business methods by Miss Gooch, including the keeping of cash records, the care of letter files, and the ordering and care of supplies, etc. Some of these topics have always been presented in the school, but hitherto in an unrelated way. A new course in printing has been prepared by Mr Stevens, including the history of printing, the practical details of selecting type and preparing matter for the printer, proof reading, blanks and forms, and library reports. Most of these topics had also been covered but they have never before been presented in a unified course. The fourth course, a library administration seminar, is new. This is conducted by the vice-director and consists of informal

discussion of such practical subjects as the making of schedules, the division of work among assistants, exhibits in libraries, duplicate pay collections, etc.

The school had the pleasure of welcoming Miss Plummer on the afternoon of May 7, for the first of a course of three illustrated lectures which she is to give consecutive Tuesday afternoons on the history of libraries.

Esther Raymond, '10, has returned to the library of the Engineering Societies from which she resigned in September.

Anne Van Cleve Taggart, '10, has accepted a position in the public library at her home, Grand Rapids, Mich.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE,  
Vice-Director.

#### Syracuse university

The graduating class in charge of the director visited libraries in Washington, Philadelphia, New York, Newark, and Brooklyn from April 5 to 16.

A pleasant feature of the trip was the reunion of former students and graduates of the school in New York city Monday evening, April 15, at the Martha Washington hotel.

The school attended the four sessions of the state library institute held at the Syracuse public library on May 2-3, and conducted by Caroline Webster, state organizer.

During the week of May 5 Edna Lyman gave a series of profitable and inspirational lectures as follows: Organization of children's libraries; Story interests; Imaginative literature; Fiction; Hero tales; Library story hour.

The seniors have recently been organizing as a problem, the Minoa school library which now consists of 350 volumes.

Clara Newth, '09, has resigned her position in the Princeton university library to accept one in the Rensselaer Polytechnic institute library.

Harriet Pearl Markham, '09, was married on May 9, 1912, to Joseph Corwin Howells at Binghamton, N. Y.

MARY J. SIBLEY, Director.

#### Western Reserve university

Last month the school welcomed Miss Tyler who came to give 10 lectures on "Organization and administration of the small library." These lectures were not alone very practical in that they were the results of actual experiences, but were most inspiring, and were enthusiastically received by the students.

The bookbinding course is in process, and includes not only instruction but visits to a library bindery and some commercial binderies. Miss Stiles, supervisor of binding of the Cleveland public library is conducting this course.

During this month the class in library administration is making visits to out of town libraries. These visits evidence real library spirit of hospitality, and are keenly appreciated by the students.

The latter part of May we are anticipating lectures from Miss Keffer, professor of art at Lake Erie college, and Miss Carey of the Minnesota library commission.

The school will be closed on Decoration day.

BESSIE SARGEANT SMITH,  
Acting Director.

#### University of Wisconsin

The spring term opened April 4. The students had just returned from two months' field work and the first few days were devoted largely to discussion of their experiences.

President Plantz of Lawrence college, Appleton, addressed the students the first week on the subject of "Systematic reading." Anna T. Eaton, assistant librarian of the University of Tennessee, gave two lectures on April 9-10 on "Anthologies and illustrated books for children."

The students enjoyed the Vocational conference held at the university the second week in April. An instructive and entertaining talk was given to the school on the "Value of newspaper publicity and the way to secure it," by Helen Bennett of the Chicago *Record-Herald* one of the conference speakers.

Prof Rasmus B. Anderson, the well

known authority on Norse literature, gave a lecture on "Nibelungenlied." An afternoon at the home of Prof Anderson gave an opportunity to study the many beautiful pieces of Norwegian and Danish art, including paintings, pottery and books.

Mrs Thorne-Thomsen gave six lectures the last week in April on the work of story telling and its sources. By invitation, teachers and outside persons interested filled the hall at every lecture.

A special invitation was extended to all library workers in the state to attend the lectures on "Children's work" and a large number took advantage of the opportunity.

At the May day celebration, three dozen sterling silver spoons were presented to the school by the class of 1912. It was made the occasion of a bulletin exhibition, the work of the members of the class. The bulletins covered a large range of subjects, but the most part emphasized the practical and useful types.

The Library school took part in the University exposition, May 3-7. Each department of the University was represented by a booth with an exhibit of its work. Much interest was shown in the exhibit of the Library school.

The course in binding was finished by each student meeting the requirement of binding a book.

The students are busily engaged in gathering material for the final subject-bibliographies which are required for graduation.

#### Alumni notes

Anna Du Pré Smith, '07, recently resigned her position as assistant librarian of the Sioux City (Ia.) public library, to spend the year at her home in Madison, Wis.

Harriet Bixby, '09, librarian of the Antigo public library, has been granted a three months' leave of absence for a trip to California.

Mary E. Watkins, '09, librarian of the Madison free library, high school branch, has accepted the position of reference librarian of the Denver public library.

Ruth P. Hughes, '10, children's librarian of the Public library of Freeport, Ill., was one of the May day guests.

Bettina Jackson, '10, left Madison the first of April to spend the summer in European travel.

Amelia K. Kiemle, '10, has accepted a position in the Public library of Portland, Ore.

#### Summer Schools

A course in library training will be offered by the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, June 10-July 19, 1912.

##### Indiana

Gertrude Elizabeth Andrus of Seattle, Wash., has been engaged to give a special advanced course in work with children at the summer school at Earlham college, Indiana, under the direction of the Indiana public library commission. Miss Andrus is a graduate of the Pittsburgh training school and is superintendent of the children's department in the Seattle public library. The course at Earlham college will be open only to librarians and assistants who have had considerable training or experience in library work. The course will be offered July 8-13.

##### Tennessee

The University of Tennessee library, with the co-operation of the Tennessee free library commission, will give a six weeks course in library methods, June 18-July 26, under the direction of Miss Fay and Miss Eaton, of the university library as follows:

I On the use of the library. Instruction in the use of the most essential reference books. Book selection and book-buying; children's books and reading; story-telling. Miss Eaton.

II Library methods. An elementary technical course in library economy. For teachers or others who have the administration of small and especially school libraries. Miss Fay.

Mrs Kelley, general secretary of the Tennessee library commission, will give the lectures on administration and the work of the commission.



**Michigan**

The Library commission will conduct its usual summer courses in library methods for teachers at the Western state normal school at Kalamazoo and the Northern state normal school at Marquette, beginning June 24, and at the Ferris industrial institute at Big Rapids, beginning July 1, 1912.

These courses are not intended for the professional training of librarians, but to make the teachers more efficient through an intelligent use of books. They will cover the subject of elementary library economics and will be inspirational, technical and practical. Credits will be given to students taking the courses, which are entirely elective. A model library of 500 books for children will be available and these books will be used in the practice work of the students. A series of lectures by a specialist will be given on children's literature.

**Exhibition of books and library equipment**

500 best books for children.

Special collection of books.

Nature study.

Folk-lore.

Picture books.

School hygiene.

School management.

Boy scouts.

Vocational training.

Pictures for school rooms.

Library Bureau exhibit.

Supplies, etc.

**Instructors**

Marquette, Mable C. True; Kalamazoo, Esther Braley; Big Rapids, Josephine O'Flynn.

MRS MARY C. SPENCER, Director.

The report of the committee on public library institutes at the recent meeting of the Ottawa library association showed 272 libraries represented in the 14 institutes held the past year, and 142 libraries not represented. The largest attendance was at Ottawa, 32; Dundas, 29; Stratford, 28; Sarnia, 25. Attendance at the others varied. There were 122 libraries that were represented in three consecutive years; 46, two consecutive years; 171, one year, and 75 libraries

were not represented in any of the three years; 339 out of the 414 libraries were represented at one or more institutes.

Over 125 persons appeared on the programs for 1911-12. The quality of many of their papers was notable. The report expresses great appreciation of the Department of Education in the assistance it has rendered to the libraries.

**News from the Field****East**

Charles N. Baxter, formerly assistant to Mr Bolton of the Boston Athenaeum, has been elected librarian at Branford, Conn.

The announcement has been made that the City library of Manchester, N. H., is to have a new building through the generosity of Frank P. Carpenter, one of the library trustees. It is understood that the building will face on one of the city's commons and it is hoped that it will be the beginning of a civic center. It is thought that the building will be of granite and of sufficient size to serve the growing needs of the city for many years to come.

The report of Harriet L. Matthews, librarian of the public library of Lynn, Mass., records a circulation of 237,605 v., of which 63% was fiction; number of volumes on the shelves, 89,085. In the 12 years of work in the present building there were charged to the public 2,402,972 v., of which number all but 36 were either returned to the library or paid for as lost and damaged books. Expenditures for the past year were \$22,292; salaries, library staff, \$9,412; janitor force, \$3,423; books and periodicals, \$5,443.

The lecture room was used for lectures and exhibitions throughout the year; 460 books were drawn from the department for the blind for home use, five new pupils were taught to read the Braille type and 99 readings were given in the room by Lynn people interested in this department.

**Central Atlantic**

Mildred Stiles, N. Y. '11-'12, will go to Vassar college library, September 16, as loan desk assistant.

Mary P. Farr, Drexel '95, will return on June 1, to work as field secretary of the Maryland public library commission.

Alfred D. Keator, N. Y. '12, has succeeded Herbert W. Fison as librarian of the Williamsburg branch of the Brooklyn public library.

Louise P. Heims, Drexel '11, librarian of Wake Forest college, will assist in the summer course in library economy to be given by the University of Pennsylvania.

Preliminary contracts for the new central building of the Brooklyn public library were awarded in March. Work will begin at once and will continue until the central building is realized.

The annual report of the public library of Kearny, N. J., records a circulation of 54,363v. with 8,819v. on the shelves; adult fiction was 53 per cent and juvenile 20 per cent; 3,899 card holders are registered.

Stephen B. Griswold, who was librarian of the State law library at Albany, N. Y., 1868-1905, died May 4 at the home of his son in Yonkers. Mr Griswold was 76 years old at the time of his death.

A subscription library of Glenridge, N. J., has been turned over to the town and will now be made a free public library. Miss M. D. Brower, formerly of the New York public library, has been made librarian.

Margaret Forgeus, Drexel '06, has resigned from the cataloging staff of Cornell university library.

Olla P. Ayres, Drexel '10, will succeed Miss Forgeus as cataloger at Cornell university.

Lulu A. Stronge, N. Y., '09-'10, has resigned her position with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company of New York and will go to Pittsburgh as assistant in charge of the sales depart-

ment of the Aluminum Company of America.

The report of the Society library of New York City shows that 36 per cent of its income in 1911 was spent for books and 39 per cent for salaries.

At the request of many members, books are selected and forwarded to them by the library. This plan has been practiced since 1904 and there is no charge for delivery.

The Library of Congress has recently received a number of notable gifts: from the Austro-Hungarian government a collection of prints issued from the Imperial press at Vienna; from the Mexican Embassy, 1,200 books and pamphlets and 2,000 numbers of periodicals relating to Mexico and Central America; from the widow of Major Edward William Karow of Savannah, Georgia, a notable collection of Napoleana, and from Prince Roland Bonaparte, well known scientist and traveler, 19 v. of his works.

Julia A. Hopkins has been appointed instructor-in-charge of the normal course at the Pratt Institute library school. Miss Hopkins was reference librarian in the Reynolds library, Rochester, N. Y., 1896-99; assistant librarian, Bryn Mawr college, 1899-1901. She was at the Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, for two years, as first assistant cataloger and as branch librarian, then librarian of the Madison, Wis., public library for six years, and for the last three years has been assistant librarian and instructor at Drexel institute. She has had experience as a teacher in the summer schools of the library commissions of Wisconsin and of Pennsylvania. She conducted apprentice classes at the Madison library for six years, and has taught in the library schools of Wisconsin and of Drexel institute. This variety of experience will be of great value in working out the problems that will be presented by the new course at Pratt institute.

The Carnegie library of Homestead, Pa., (W. F. Stevens, libn.) records a

circulation of 233,523v.; of this, 65,688v. were drawn from the adult desk, 40,415v. from the children's room, 103,056v. through the schools and 24,364 from 23 stations located throughout the township served by the library.

Fiction was 47.8 per cent; literature, 11 per cent; travel and science, each eight per cent; history, 6.2 per cent; sociology, 5 per cent; biography and fine arts, 4 per cent each and religion, useful arts, ethics and bound magazines each 2 per cent. Percentage of readers to the total population, 33 per cent. Volumes in the library per capita, 1.2 per cent; per capita circulation, 7 per cent. Cost of each circulation, five cents; cost of each circulation as per salary, two and one half cents.

There are 40,993v. on the shelves and a circulation of over 5,000 books in foreign languages is recorded.

The eighteenth annual report of the Wilmington (Del.) Institute free library records a circulation of 261,414 v., with 75,692 v. on the shelves and 15,070 card holders. The expenditures were \$24,843, of which the salaries reached \$11,866; books, \$4,959; periodicals, \$802; binding, \$1,020. The children's department established a pay collection for the benefit of those mothers who desired to borrow only clean books. The use of the department, however, was so slight as to prove that there was no large demand for it and that expenditure of money to support it would not have been justified.

The library is open for reading and reference on Sunday afternoon. It was first opened for this purpose on the first Sunday in November, and up to the last Sunday in February there were 950 readers. This was not so large as hoped for, but sufficient to warrant a continuance of the plan.

Over 33 columns of printed matter appeared in the local papers, lists of books were compiled and distributed on 40 subjects.

Much interest was aroused in the staff meetings by having various speakers out-

side of the library give addresses on subjects of current interest.

### Central

Charlotte Gregory, Drexel '11, has resigned from the Newberry library, Chicago.

Helen Woodruff, Drexel '09, is cataloging medical books in the public library of South Bend, Ind.

Charles E. Janvrin, B. L. S., N. Y. '11, has gone to University of Illinois to take charge of the natural history library.

The report of the public library of Grand Rapids, Michigan, records a circulation of 338,087 v., with 291,586 readers.

The entire library of Rev. Hugh O'Gara McShane of Chicago, consisting of valuable philosophical, historical and philological works is left to the university of Notre Dame (Ind.).

Vera Sieg, librarian of the Dayton street branch of Cincinnati public library has resigned her position and will be married in June at her home in Marshalltown, Iowa, to Thomas Greenwald of Cincinnati. Miss Sieg belonged to the Wisconsin library school, class '08.

The John Crerar library of Chicago has purchased a site for a building on the corner of Michigan avenue and Randolph street opposite the Chicago public library. It is to be a permanent building, which will be "tasteful, substantial and fire-proof," as required by Mr Crerar's will, but not imposing or monumental.

The library forces of Missouri have received a valuable addition in the advent of Alison Adsit Rush, assistant to her father, Charles E. Rush, librarian, St. Joseph, Mo., and Eva Elizabeth Blackwelder, who will add to the joys and responsibilities of the assistant librarian of the St. Louis public library.

In recognition of long and faithful service in the Chicago public library, Mr B. M. Smith has been made second assistant librarian, in charge of the even-

ing work. In the annual rerating of salaries last month, many department heads received substantial increases, and of the other employes, 99 were each given \$60 additional compensation for the year.

The annual report of the public library of Clinton, Iowa, records a circulation for the year of 76,786 v., of which the children's room furnished 31,273 v.; books on shelves, 18,612 v.; card holders, 841. Books were placed in six different schools with the most gratifying results. The report indicates that the institution is becoming very largely an educational factor in the intellectual advancement of the community.

To stimulate interest in the study of the German language and literature, Herman Erb, president of a bank of Appleton (Wis.) has given \$2,000 to Lawrence college to provide a German library and to endow two prizes of \$50 and \$25, which will be given annually for the greatest proficiency in German in the junior class after competitive examination.

Isaac S. Bradley for more than 40 years connected with the Wisconsin State historical library, died April 23. In 1875 Mr Bradley was appointed assistant librarian and held that position until 1892, at which time he succeeded the late Mr Currie as librarian, acting in that office up to the time of his death. He had worked for many years on a bibliography of Wisconsin writers, which he leaves unfinished.

The authorities of the Wisconsin historical society have decided to allow the office of librarian to lapse and the duties thereof to be merged in the office of the superintendent.

The free public library of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, reports a total of 25,471 books on the shelves; 5,073 accessions during the year; 149,193v. circulated, being a net gain of 26 per cent. A number of changes have taken place in the staff and this is the first year that the children's

department has been in charge of a special children's librarian. The activities have included work in the reference department, special book lists and picture bulletins. This is also the first year of township extension work. Trustees of Cedar township in April agreed to levy a library tax so that the children might enjoy the free use of the library. Clinton township has also made a contract with the library for the same privilege. The schools of both townships were visited and class-room libraries sent out, which included books for adults.

#### South

George T. Settle, acting-assistant librarian of the Louisville free public library, has been appointed to succeed William F. Yust as a member of the Kentucky state library commission.

The report of the El Paso (Tex.) public library for the year 1911 records 88,406v. on the shelves; circulation, 53,718v.; card-holders, 6,882. A separate reference room for government publications has been opened, documents are classified, and subject cards are made for the catalog. A very satisfactory new lighting system has been installed.

The annual report of the public library of Little Rock, Arkansas, shows a circulation of 46,272v., an increase of nearly 8,000 over the previous year; volumes on the shelves, 5,759. Spent for salaries, \$2,827; for books, \$1,803; periodicals, \$208. There were 1,443 card holders added during the year making a total of 4,500. Mary Maude Pugsley is librarian.

An authentic roll of Revolutionary soldiers from Virginia is contained in the eighth annual report of the Virginia state library. The roll comprises no less than 36,000 names. According to studies of Dr Eckenrode, chief of archives and history, Virginia appears to have furnished a larger quota of soldiers, according to her population, than any other state. Massachusetts is credited with a larger number than Virginia, but she had a much greater population than the latter.